

THE LITERARY GAZETTE

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REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

THE PURSUIT OF LITERATURE.

Arthur Frankland, or the Experience of a Tragic Poet, a Tale. Pp. 339. Saunders and Otley.

THERE is a semblance of reality in this story which seems to prove that there is a foundation for its details, and that the imagination can only have coloured them. The case is one but too common to poets and authors in general, namely, the mistake of a strong impulse and desire for fame, for the powers and qualifications needful to attain it; an over-estimate of Self, and a consequent life of hopeless struggle and misery:

"And now my second book was completed, and I held in my hand the instrument that was to avenge me of all my many wrongs. I felt such confidence in it—it was so excellent a thing to reflect that it was *not* poetry, nor, indeed, any work of a character so detailed and plodding as to prevent it attaining to popularity by scaring away ordinary readers from its perusal. On the contrary, it was brief, temperate, and novel; just the sort of performance to excite attention without exhausting it, to lead one hurriedly through its pages and preserve his interest unflagging to the end.

"There was one drawback to my chance of success, certainly—I had no longer money at my command. Publishers might decline risking their own capital upon it, notwithstanding that they might see in it indubitable elements of promise. But then, I immediately reassured myself, by reflecting that the process of publication would be very inexpensive, and that hundreds had triumphantly delivered themselves from similar difficulties before me.

"I went, accordingly, to a distinguished member of the profession, and explained to him briefly the object of my visit. As before, he untied the book and looked cursorily through its pages, until his eye chanced to rest upon the last manuscript leaf, when he read the page number, and his looks fell suddenly blank.

"Just heaven! this second one was declined! It was so very brief, he said, and the expenses of bringing it before the world were so little less than those incurred in the production of one treble its size, that works so small as this were scarcely ever found to remunerate. For himself, he begged to decline my offer of it.

"Let me go the whole hog at once," exclaimed I; let me fill to the full the measure of my degradation! Here is a glorious condition Literature reduces its votaries to; I go supplicating mercantile strangers to take me philanthropically by the hand!—and four distinct publishing houses I visited on this humiliating errand, and at each separate establishment, No! was the reply accorded to me.

"I returned home crushed and dispirited. My whole feeling was numbed; it was as if I had attached myself to some rapidly ascending wheel, and I had been repulsed and thrown violently to the ground.

"I hurried silently through the house, and set myself down alone in a private parlour. I was vanquished. I saw that genius, energy, perseverance, were insufficient for the task of obtaining me my bread; fools could prosper around me, and each day accumulate unwelcome tales of their success upon my ear; but no convulsive effort of mine was adequate to the task of raising me to the surface of the tide; Fate

Enlarged 12x.]

held me unrelaxingly down, and my fierce struggles could not avert her determination to crush me.

"I sat indulging these gloomy thoughts, for, I should suppose, an hour. I could no longer see any possibility even of my succeeding. For years I had dedicated myself unceasingly to labour; I had educated my mind, I had cultivated my powers, and I had exercised me in every art that is believed best calculated to command success; but, notwithstanding all these continued exertions, and notwithstanding, too, that the immediate result of my application might be said to have been satisfactory, I was still as remote from literary distinction as ever!"

Here is the case described and demonstrated. It is no doubt a hard one, but can we point to any unreasonable cause for the distressing failure? We think not. Publishers may, and often do, fail to appreciate the works submitted to them for the outlay of their capital in the trade; but we cannot censure them for this, nor hold them amenable for the disappointment of the authors however bitter. It is a fallacy to hold them bound to be the Patrons of Literature and Genius. They are commercialists; and books are to them what sheep and oxen are to the butcher. What will they produce, is the question in Paternoster Row as at the Cattle Show. And if a bookseller laid out his money on poor works, or works that would not sell, he would very soon be in a condition neither to buy nor to sell; as would be the butcher who tried to drive on a profitable business with lean bullocks and starved or diseased sheep. In many instances we must pity and lament the aspirant's fate; but we cannot condemn those who only appear to be the immediate instruments in destroying such fatal hopes and expectations.

The hero of the Tale begins life under fortunate auspices, but the smiles of the fickle goddess fail and he is driven to his own resources. He falls in love with a poor, beautiful, accomplished, and virtuous girl, and all his efforts are directed to obtain a competency to insure their union and happiness. In the pursuit he adopts some steps more reconcilable with the eccentricity supposed to belong to genius, than to ordinary, common-sense measures, and finally he becomes a Veterinary Surgeon of most interesting character, hides himself in the country, and . . . but we won't tell. The author who sketches his life confesses that he was not a wise man, and very sensibly and philosophically remarks,

"The law of physical life is, it must be confessed, somewhat abrupt—still, carping at its nature will never effect a remodelment or a modification; we are the vassals of Nature; miserable, locomotive, feeling creatures of her prolific but unregarding hand; so, since life is as it is, and we must either go merrily on with the stream, or oppose it and be crushed for our ambitious vanity, my advice is to make the best we can of it, and count each moment of enjoyment—nay, each moment passed in the absence of pain—as so much spoil rescued from the insatiable hand of the enemy.

"Where opposition is idle, it is mischievous to resist. Life has been tried by many succeeding generations of our fellow-creatures, and they all concur in testifying to us, even if our own experience went for nothing, that life is enduring, provided the mind be preserved in a

state to meet the incessant shocks and vexations that assail it. To the moody mind there is sufficient of unpleasantness to continually nourish the dissatisfaction it feeds upon; while to the joyous and exuberant, there is enough of pervading natural gaiety, enough of accidental turns and surprises to keep them in fellowship with their being, and even occasionally rejoice in the brief term of existence their nature affords them."

He goes on to observe:

"Minds are as distinct in their various categories as vegetables and minerals are separate in theirs; the organization and manner of existing are in each class peculiar to themselves, and the one condition of mind is no better able to assume the shape and character of the other, than the dwarf to increase his stature, or the giant to mitigate his height.

"I myself have no contempt for matter-of-fact men; as such, they are a shrewd, penetrating class, and much practical knowledge is to be gained by association with them. But there is no greatness in their souls; their views of matters are only piecemeal. Men can alone form notions of things by sympathy with them; you cannot conceive what is excluded from your intellectual perception. All the phenomena of human action are not reducible to numerical tables; there are spontaneous volitions and motive springs, which nothing but an intimate acquaintance with the soul of man can trace to their source, and reconcile with apparent contradiction. The mere intelligence of Greek and Latin is very insignificant, if we have not minds to apply the wisdom the Greeks and Romans taught. A man should have fixed and definite notions of things, and form his opinions upon a philosophical survey of the subject in the aggregate; and no matter how particular instances may aberrate from the common course, he knows what its principle is, and he can allow for exceptions to the general rule. This digested view is necessary to preserve consistent accuracy in the reasoning and philosophy of diverse ages and nations; for if each man were to form his opinions upon the particular incidents of his own observation, each theory would be as contrary and discrepant as individual circumstances are various and unlike. The matter-of-fact man, therefore, is deficient in sagacity, inasmuch as he judges, not by the *spirit* whence action springs, but by visible results and the paltry incidents of his own personal experience.

"Hence arises the unapproachable wisdom of the poet. To him is communicated a knowledge of the heart in its every variety of bearing; his view is not of the surface, which suffers itself to be determined according to the conflicting character of each succeeding action; he searches into his own heart and there beholds the prolific source of all the complications and contradictions of visible life. The man Shakspeare is as truly embodied in the wiles and rogueries of his unpolished clowns, as in the hopes and the aspirations of his high and adorable heroes. The soul of the poet responds to every chord that vibrates in all the varieties of the human breast, and, good or bad, paltry or magnificent, he is conscious of the spirit that owns them all."

The following reflections upon children also appear to us to be very pleasing and judicious:

"I have myself a peculiar affection for children, not that they are so faultless and innocent

a race, as some persons are pleased to paint them; they are a turbulent little set, and though undisguised selfishness is no vice, it is very frequently displeasing; still, I say, I love children; there is so very much in their nature that appeals to and interests the feelings. We behold in them a race of creatures formed without any consulted will of their own, and animated with a principle which none can define; they are so new to the world, too, and every rapidly succeeding action proceeds from a volition so evidently unfinished, and so interesting, but withal so fruitless to inquire into, that I can gaze upon a child, and watch its thousand little natural freaks, and almost fancy every such creature a new speculation of creative nature.

"In their varying moods, also, they are so incomprehensible; the slightest disappointment, and passionate weeping is the result. Whence comes it that the surface of the mind, which one moment since shone so calm in the sunshine of joyous childhood, should instantaneously be lashed into such tempest and passion? All trouble is but supposititious, yet this child here, a mere toy of the present hour and incapable of one moment's foresight, is so agitated to the very soul with an incident which in five minutes will be forgotten, that it seems the equanimity of its existence is for ever disturbed. There is something curious here."

We copy another good example (for we do not wish to meddle with the narrative and plot):

"Things in the aggregate always present an exaggerated appearance. When living a London life, we find its joys and anxieties pretty equitably alternated, and we continue to live on without much consciousness of misery, but when all the circumstances of a metropolitan life are placed far away, and only viewed through the light of the recollection, its numberless unsocial qualities—its crowded streets, its mazy walls, its turgid atmosphere—assume so dreary and repulsive a cast, that the thought of returning to it operates upon the mind like a nausea."

We add the author's ideas of poetry.

"Description is not poetry—

"Stay," exclaimed I, cutting him short in his oration; 'what is to become then of all our descriptive poets? You, surely, have not the temerity to deny genius to them, and displace worthies who for ages have ranked high in the temple of Fame?'

"I care nothing for instances," he replied, 'I argue solely from principles. Description, I repeat, is not poetry. Poetry has but one legitimate theme, and that is the mind. The poet does not deal with facts; his function is to embody influences, and to exalt the soul with his lovely interpretations from Nature. Who trusts to the accidents of his own information, and can expound nothing that is not physically produced before him, may be a clever artist, and smoothly polish his descriptive lines, but he is no poet, he has invented nothing, and without the faculty of invention no man is a poet.'

Yet after his own failure the following shows that he was no true poet—the feeling could not exist in one of that glorious class.

"I was (he says) furious and malignant. Love, taste, ambition, all were ungratified, and each perception of my mind became a torment and a curse. Fools could enjoy life, and smirk superficially around me, while I was deprived of the barest prerogative of a man: I had no wife, no employment, no home, nothing to turn to for alleviation of my misery. So I paid back with impotent hate all the wrongs that were inflicted upon me; I became harsh, unchristian, and uncharitable, and I hated a man if he was but successful."

"I could not read for six months I never once trusted myself to look into a book. What could so much mock me? This man has utter-

ance, fame, emolument, I bitterly thought, and I am not suffered to articulate a word! If an announcement accidentally met my view, "Such and such a work, Fifth Edition," oh, I gnashed my teeth with fury, and could have hurled it to the other side of the globe!"

We have only to add that besides the talent we have exemplified, there is considerable interest in the autobiography, and some descriptions both of inanimate nature and of men and women which display observation and power.

TEA.

An Account of the Cultivation and Manufacture of Tea in China. By Samuel Ball, Esq., late Inspector of Teas to the H.E.I.C. in China. 8vo. Pp. 382. Longmans.

MUCH personal observation and practical experience has enabled Mr. Ball to produce the most complete and satisfactory work on this interesting subject, which has yet been given to the world. In fact, it leaves few matters not fully explained; and, as regards the soils, the modes of planting, the cultivation, the manipulation, and the commercial measures for sale or export, there is a very distinct and comprehensive view of every process or measure in present usage. Even the vexed question between the Black and the Green is considerably cleared, and with a judgment, such as the author's, we might pronounce on the cause which effected that variety, of so much importance to health, taste, and the market. In his preface he informs us what he intended to do, and what, on shutting up the volume at the conclusion, we must allow he has done:

"In laying before the public the following pages on the cultivation and manufacture of tea in China, I have been actuated by a hope of dispelling some of the prevalent errors and misconceptions with which this subject has hitherto been involved; but mainly by a desire of supplying to the cultivator a desideratum, long and ineffectually sought, in aid of those attempts which are now in progress for the cultivation of the tea tree, on an extended scale, in British India and other parts of the world."

"The immediate aim, then, of this book is utility rather than amusement; and yet the general reader in turning over its pages may unexpectedly find his attention arrested by matter not altogether devoid of interest to him; while such as are stimulated by the gratification of a natural curiosity to seek some acquaintance with the modes of manipulating the fragrant leaf which 'smokes as an infusion on our tables,' may possibly find something which may instruct as well as amuse. At all events they will meet with a rational answer to a question frequently discussed at the tea-table, namely, 'In what consists the difference between black and green tea?' To the wholesale and retail dealer, if the task has been fairly executed, each page ought to have its interest; and the merchant will find, on reference to the heads of chapters, more than is promised by the title-page, on subjects regarding price, and other topics of trade. For the chemist some experiments are detailed, and a novel theory is submitted for further development from his science, as to a change in the constituents of black tea, which is traced to a process of manipulation previous to roasting, on which its darkness and redness of colour in leaf and infusion, as well as flavour, is supposed to depend. In the development, however, of this theory, I must claim the indulgence of the man of science; a character to which I make no claim."

Proceeding *per saltum*, we may briefly state that this chemical hypothesis that black tea depends on a change previous to roasting, similar to what takes place in hay, "during which a loss of tannin occurs, and a saccharine principle is set in action. On this change, its

darker colour and mixture of red and brown leaves, its redness of infusion, and mildness of flavour, seem to depend; independently of the temperature employed, or any management of heat. The manipulation of the leaves previously to roasting, as already described, is indispensably necessary to constitute black tea of good quality. Analogous effects may be produced by other means, but they must be considered as inferior methods."

"But green tea seems to derive the better preservation of its natural colour and peculiar flavour from what approaches nearer to simple desiccation. Whatever decomposition here takes place, it must be sought for exclusively in the processes of roasting and drying. The light bluish colour of the dried leaves, resembling the bloom on some fruits, is due to a rapid process of drying, in consequence of a free admission of light and air to every part of the leaves while yet moist, and exposed to the action of a moderate temperature."

"If the aroma of tea be not inherent in the plant, but generated during the process of manipulation, then that change which is effected in black tea by spontaneous heating, as in hay or tobacco, may in green tea, like the aroma of coffee, be elaborated by artificial heat by a process analogous to fermentation, as surmised by Von Esenbeck."

We now turn to more specific generalities:

"There can be no doubt that the tea shrub is very extensively cultivated in China; and the probability is, that every province, by means of its sheltered vallies, is enabled to contribute largely to its own domestic consumption. Still the ground allotted to the growth of this shrub, being commonly only such as is unproductive, hilly, or otherwise unprofitable, as the embankments of arable and cultivated ground; and as every part of the empire is not equally favourable to its growth, it has often been questioned, how far the use of this refreshing beverage is within the daily reach of the lowest order of the people. It is without doubt extensively used by all classes of the community, even the lowest, in some form or other, throughout this vast country; but it is equally certain, that innumerable other leaves are employed as substitutes by many people among the poorer class, as frequent experience shows. I examined many samples of such tea brought down to Canton by the gentlemen connected with Lord Amherst's embassy. Long lists of plants, moreover, are found in many of the Chinese herbals, to which the same term 'tea' is applied; though the Chinese very well distinguish the true tea from its substitute, by observing, that the plants so used, 'though they bear the name of tea, are not of the tea species.' In fact, they use the term 'tea' in a general sense as we do, to signify any infusion of leaves, as balm, camomile tea, and others."

After designating the principal localities where the teas are grown for the European market, and which are too well known to require our particularization, we come to the grand dispute of Black and Green. To this the subjoined quotations refer:

"The cultivation of green tea differs essentially from that of the black, inasmuch as the finest description, denominated Hyson, is cultivated on plains in a fertile soil, and manured. The price paid by foreigners for this quality of tea affords sufficient encouragement to the grower to induce him to appropriate a more fruitful soil to its cultivation. Why the cultivation of Sou-chong tea is not more extended, I have never been able satisfactorily to understand, except, as stated by the Chinese, that the soil favourable to its growth is confined to a locality of limited extent, whereas Hyson tea may be produced in any quantity. Higher prices have been paid by the East India Company for the finest description of Sou-chong or Pao-chong tea, than were ever

given for green tea, and every pains taken to encourage its growth. In a free trade these high-flavoured teas are not likely to answer to the importer, whose object is necessarily gain. They will probably gradually disappear from the market; but it was a matter of principle with the East India Company to sustain the character and quality of their teas, and to consult the discriminating taste of the rich, as well as to satisfy the demands of the poor, without a strict regard to profit; so that they imported some teas, as they exported woollens and other British products, at a loss. Their aggregate profits enabled them to conduct their trade on generous principles."

Of the Black tea there are three gatherings in the season; viz. of the Green only two. But again *versus*, we are told:

"The fact of black and green tea being made from the same leaves is not a novel discovery. Mr. Bruce states, in his report on the cultivation of tea at Assam, 'I am now plucking leaves for both black and green tea from the same tract and from the same plants; the difference lies in the manufacture and nothing else.' There are still more early authorities on the same point, and so far back as Dr. Abel's journey in China, 1818.

"In conclusion I may say, that the tubs containing charcoal used in the final drying of black tea or green tea, and the shifting of the iron pan and employing the stove for the same purpose, though in principle the same as the mode adopted in the black tea district for drying black tea, yet obviously indicate the employment of make-shifts, and rough methods, fit only for peasants and small plantations. It will also be seen, when we come to examine into the mode of manipulating green tea, that the forms of the stoves and vessels, used in the Hyson district, differ essentially from those seen by Mr. Fortune in the parts of China which he visited."

"The green tea known to foreigners may be classed under two kinds, Hyson and Singlo: all other kinds are made from these shrubs, and there is much reason to think that even the Hyson is merely the Singlo shrub improved by soil and cultivation."

He describes the roasting, and towards its close remarks:

"It was now curious to observe the change of colour which gradually took place in the leaves; for it was in this roasting that they began to assume that bluish tint, resembling the bloom on fruit, which distinguishes this tea, and renders its appearance so agreeable."

"Thus it is obvious that the peculiar colour of green tea does not properly arise from the admixture of colouring matter with the leaves, but naturally out of the process of manipulation. Indeed, if we reflect a little, it must be evident, as before observed, that it was quite impossible that Europeans could suggest to the Chinese to colour their teas blue. There must have been some foundation for this practice originating with the Chinese themselves. As a close twist and curl of the leaf is one test of superior quality, so also is brightness of colour. The factitious colouring, then, of green teas has originated with the Chinese, to give a spurious superiority to inferior teas: and it must be acknowledged that foreigners have been too easily duped by these deceptions. It would be wiser to appreciate strength and flavour more, and colour less."

"So far as the characteristic colour of green tea is concerned, the mode of producing it has here been explained and established. If factitious means are now generally or almost universally adopted to imitate or to increase the effect of the natural colour, it may be considered as a great and novel abuse, and ought to be discouraged by brokers and dealers. It is injurious to flavour. Whether the Chinese do employ colour-

ing matter or not for the teas they use themselves, there can be no doubt that the bulk of the Hyson teas of the present day, and, indeed, all descriptions of green tea, are now glazed to a degree that would have insured their rejection by the agents of the East India Company during the existence of their charter."

"But we have no authentic information on this subject; no botanist has ever been able to penetrate into those particular districts, where the tea shrub is cultivated for foreign consumption."

"So far as my information extends, there is not even any certainty that specimens of the plant from the black and green tea districts have been examined and described by any botanist. It is an undeniable fact that no reliance can be placed on the genuineness of the numerous specimens sent to Europe. The plants generally furnished and sold by the Chinese as such, are mostly Canton plants; the Thea Bohea, or Stricta, being the Honan plant, and the Viridis or laxa, consisting of plants procured from Sy-chin-shan, Pe-yuen-hiang, and other villages in the province of Quong Tong; the fresh leaves of which are of a light green colour, though they are commonly employed to make black tea for Chinese consumption."

"That true specimens have been procured at different periods from the tea districts cannot be doubted, but the instances have been rare; and no certain record has been kept, or at least published, of which I am aware after diligent inquiry, of the locality of any such plants. It is obvious from the remote distance of the tea provinces situated 800 or 1000 miles from Canton (the only port till lately accessible to Europeans), and the jealousy and suspicion of the Chinese, in common with all artisans and manufacturers on subjects of craft, that specimens must be difficult to procure; and, even when obtained, a doubt must always remain as to their being genuine or not."

"Thus, so far as Chinese testimony, and facts collected from the Chinese are concerned, there seems no reason for supposing that a natural difference exists in the plants in China, which furnish the teas of commerce, any more than at Japan, Java, or Rio de Janeiro."

"I incline, then, (concludes our author), to the belief of Kerr that there is only one species in China; by which I mean, that there is no natural difference in the plant. Whether any varieties have become permanent in the soils where they grow, that is, capable of propagation by seed, as appears to be the fact with the Honan plant at Canton, and apparently with the Anko plant near Amoy; or whether the plants, found in the black and green tea districts, vary from each other, and are more suitable to the modes of manipulation adopted in each, is a question which can only be satisfactorily determined by examination and experiment on the spot."

"Enough, however, has been said to prove that the modification of colour and form of the black and green teas in their manipulated state, arises from a different process of manipulation, independently of any variety of the plant, or any quality of the soil. And of flavour it may be said, that, all other circumstances being the same, the difference also arises mainly from manipulation, though partly, perhaps, from some accidental change produced in the plant by atmospheric influence, soil, and cultivation."

"But whatever diversity of flavour may be due to difference in the plants themselves, or however much certain qualities may be confined to particular localities, both in the black and green tea countries, yet it is very doubtful how far such peculiarities affect the teas of commerce, except so far as mixture is concerned in forming a particular quality suited to a fixed price."

These are the most important notices relative to this remarkable inquiry, and we shall not swell our review with many farther extracts. The following, however, may interest most readers and all tea-drinkers:

"The Pekoe tea consists of the unexpanded terminal leaf-bud, in which state the convoluted part is covered with a white hair or down, whence its name, Pe-hao (white hair), Pac-ho, or Pekoe, as corrupted by us, is derived. The white hairy appearance of the leaves found in this tea is termed *flower* by the dealers in England, which term, as well as that of *Fleur de Thé*, appears to have originated in a supposition, that these white downy leaves were the blossom of the tea. The *Fleur de Thé*, so much esteemed on the Continent, and particularly in Russia, for its exquisite odour, is no other than fine Pekoe tea. The tea blossom has little fragrance at any time, and still less when preserved in a dried state; it is, therefore, quite incapable of diffusing that delightful and powerful scent ascribed to the *Fleur de Thé*. It is true, however, that the blossom of tea has a slight fragrance, and is occasionally used by the Chinese in their tea. Two or three of these dried flowers are put into a cup of tea, not on account of their fragrance, but for their ornamental appearance, which is certainly elegant, when seen in their expanded state floating on the surface of the pure and bright infusion of tea, as used by the Chinese, who do not cloud and adulterate it with any admixture of sugar and milk."

On the Scenting of tea, we learn:

"The Chinese seem universally to agree, in ancient as in modern times, that no factitious scent can be given to tea which attains its natural fragrance; in short, they say, that 'only common tea requires scenting.' Those persons who have had the opportunity of drinking some of the finest kinds of Souchong tea, will perhaps agree with the Chinese in this opinion. There are, however, many scented teas, which, so far from being inferior, are even costly, and much esteemed both in China and in Europe. Of these the *Chu Lan*, or Cowslip Hyson, may be considered the best. I shall therefore now explain the manner in which I have seen this process performed; which, indeed, does not differ greatly from that in practice 900 years ago, as described in the *Keun-fang-pu*, a Chinese herbal. The flowers may be gathered at any time of the day, but those are considered the best and most fragrant which are gathered while the dew is yet on the leaves."

"The tea about to be scented must be taken hot from the last roasting, which immediately precedes the packing, and poured into a Hyson chest, so as to form a layer of two inches in height from the bottom. A handful or more of the fresh flowers, already separated from the stalks, is then strewed over the tea. In this manner the tea and flowers are placed in layers until the chest is quite full. The mouth of the canister is then closed; and the tea thus remains twenty-four hours. The proper proportion is three catties of flowers to one hundred catties of tea. The next day the chest is emptied, when the tea and flowers are mixed together. They then undergo the process of *Poey*, about three catties being put into one sieve. The *Poey* Long is completely closed, and the tea and flowers are thus roasted about from one to two hours, or rather until the flowers become crisp. The flowers are then sifted out, and the tea packed. If the tea requires any further scenting, fresh flowers must be used, and the process repeated as before. The method of *Poey* is the same as that used for the black tea, only that the bottom of the sieve is covered with thin paper. The tea thus prepared is then mixed with other tea in the proportion of one part of scented tea to twenty of plain. The whole is then slightly heated in a *Kuo* (Chao), and, when packed,

constitutes the description of tea denominated in England Cowslip Hyson. Tea may be scented at any time with this kind of tea, but it must be previously heated or roasted about two hours.

"The mode of scenting black tea differs from that of green; and, so far as I understand, there are two or three methods of performing this process. The Sonchy or Caper teas, the Tet Siong, and other teas of the cowslip flavour, are also scented with the Chu Lan flower (*Chloranthus inconspicuus*).

"After gathering, the flowers are separated from the stalks as before, when some people dry them in the sun; but the best mode is to dry them in a Poey Long over a slow fire, taking care not to change the yellow colour of the petals. When dried, they are put aside to cool, and are afterwards reduced to a powder. If this powder, the scent of which is very powerful, be sprinkled over the leaves previously to the last or two last roastings and rollings in the process of Poey, the tea will be highly scented: but this is an expensive mode on account of the additional quantity of flowers required, and therefore is seldom practised. The usual mode is by sprinkling a small quantity of this powder over the tea during the last process of Poey, which takes place previously to packing. A small white powder, frequently found in black teas of the caper flavour, cannot have escaped the observation of the tea-dealers in England; this powder is that of the Chu Lan flower, whose colour has been changed to white in the process of Poey.

"There is another scented tea, of excellent flavour, which is made in small quantities, and occasionally sent to foreigners as presents. This is a Souchong tea, scented with the flower of the Pac Sheem (*Gardenia florida*).

"There are two other scented teas, also of fine flavour: both Souchong teas, the one scented with the Quy-fa or Kuey-hoa (*Olea fragrans*); and the other with the Moo-Ly-Hoa (*Jasminum Sambac*). Some people say that these three last teas are mixed with the flowers, as the Hyson tea is mixed with the Chu Lan, and are scented in the same manner. But others say that two sieves are placed in the Poey Long, the lower one containing the flowers, and the upper one the tea. The latter is the mode in which the Pac Sheem tea, to which I have previously alluded, is scented. These are all the flowers with which I am acquainted, which are employed to scent tea; but in the Keun Fang Pu and Quang Tong Chy (or Canton Geographical History) many others are enumerated as eligible for that purpose. These works also observe that flowers so used should be full blown."

A great commercial question has arisen as to the cultivation of tea in our Indian Empire, to compete with China. Mr. Ball shows that the cost where manufactured in China, is 7d. to 8d. per lb., and he then details the other costs before it is brought to market for sale. He next enters into similar calculations as regards Assam, and though the recent opening of Chinese ports besides Canton is likely to render the competition more difficult, is, nevertheless, of opinion, that it may be carried on to the incalculable benefit of 114 millions of our Indian Empire, and to the benefit of traffic throughout the whole of central Asia. By the last accounts from Bengal we were glad to see that Lord Hardinge had allowed £10,000 a year to try the experiment in Lahore. May it prosper, and produce the fruits anticipated by Mr. Ball.

SWITZERLAND AND THE SWISS.

Switzerland in 1847; and its Condition, Political, Social, Moral, and Physical, before the War. By Theodore Mügge. Edited by Mrs. Percy Sinnett. 2 Vols. R. Bentley.

We have not seen the original work from which, to judge by internal evidence, this has been most judiciously compressed. Its general view

of Swiss affairs from the period of the French revolution, when the seeds were sown of all that has since sprung up, gives us a clear idea of the progress of events and development of opinion to the present day; and when the narrative takes up and describes the Cantons individually, we find the information so complete as to leave nothing to wish for. The difference between the pastoral and the town population is exceedingly marked, but yet there are national features common to all; and on some points Mr. Mügge does not represent them very favourably. Thus he tells us:

"In Freiburg it is surprising what new life the railroad has brought in, how it is building and increasing on all sides. There is nothing of this in Schaffhausen; but it has one peculiar source of profit in common with nearly all Switzerland, namely, the troops of strangers who flock to it from all parts of Europe, and whose appearance is watched for as anxiously as in some countries huntsmen and fishers watch for shoals of fish or flights of migratory birds. A good summer brings travellers by thousands, a bad one drives away the gold-dropping visitors; and since every Swiss brings with him into the world, planted deep in his inmost soul, the instinct of money-getting, a rainy season is felt as a national calamity.

"The Swiss are a prudent, moderate, saving, calculating nation; indeed I can hardly imagine such a thing as a Swiss spendthrift possible; and they are all well aware of how much of the prosperity of Switzerland depends on the influx of visitors.

"There are, it is true, parts of the country where a stranger is scarcely ever seen, and where the people yet manage to live, indeed live often much better than in those where they are demoralised and filled with a greedy desire of gain by the perpetual passage of strangers; but in the regular routes all travellers must make up their minds to be delivered up as a prey to the innkeepers, who, without the help of oaths or acts of congress, have formed the firmest league among themselves."

The settlement of 1815 is stated, as we have remarked, to have been the origin of what has since gradually occurred:

"The federal union was to consist of twenty-two cantons, Geneva, Valais, and Neuchâtel being added to the number; and the latter immediately renewed its former relations with Prussia. The cantons which had formerly held subjects, received an indemnity or an extension of territory. Berne and Zurich got back the capital they had employed in England, with interest; and everything was to remain in its former condition, that is, its condition after the victory of the aristocratic party. Each canton was sovereign, and free to act according to its own pleasure. The general right of settlement granted by the Act of Mediation, free-trade, and other popular benefits, were withdrawn; all the old lines of demarcation replaced; and Switzerland presented, as of old, examples of all possible forms of government, from pure democracy to aristocracies and oligarchies of every kind up to monarchy.

"And now once more the contrast of town and country, inner and outer cantons, between barbarism and civilization, and, worse than all, between Catholic and Protestant, became glaring as ever. The small pastoral cantons, which had no ancient written constitution (a boon they had owed solely to the Act of Mediation), fell back into the old train; left the government wholly to the old families, looked down on strangers settling among them with the old arrogance, and followed blindly the guidance of the monks and priests, whose unblended influence was soon exerted to bar all attempt at needful reform or the extension of education. A similar state of things prevailed in Lucerne, Soleure, and Freiburg,

where the patricians and priests made common cause; Berne, whose voice was potential in the Diet, followed the same line of conduct; Zurich was rather more fortunate; the country people had obtained some concessions, unsatisfactory it is true, but, such as they were, they maintained them. Basle, on the other hand, held firmly by its privileges. The city was in the hands of a mercantile aristocracy, which would not hear of a representation of the country. Aargau, St. Gall, Appenzell, and Vaud had freed themselves from their most oppressive relations, and showed more vital energy.

"The Diet held in the Vororts of Berne, Zurich, and Lucerne, was then a melancholy shadow, without life or substance. The individual sovereignty of every little canton was an effectual bar to internal improvement, and robbed Switzerland of all weight and dignity in relation to the great powers and the court of Rome. The reinstated aristocracy saw justly enough only friends and supporters in those powers, whom they must endeavour to please however they might disgust the thinking part of the nation. For this end, the freedom of the press was shackled, the Italian fugitives surrendered in 1823 to Austria, a severe system of surveillance introduced for foreigners; and, that no part of the old scandal might be wanting, treaties to furnish mercenary troops were entered into with foreign powers. The efforts of some cantons to obtain so much of the Diet as uniformity of currency, and of weights and measures, were fruitless; nothing was done either in furtherance of the right of settlement, or of freedom of trade. What wonder, if a secret fire remained smouldering in the breast of every upright man who really loved his country?

"It is instructive to observe how steadily at this time the Propaganda in Switzerland pursued its object,—the exaltation of the Church above the State, the annihilation of the free episcopacy through the absolute authority of the Pope, and the unconditional surrender of the people to the direction of the priesthood;—and how unflinchingly the same object is pursued now.

"The fishermen of St. Peter's spread their nets, which fell like a heavy mourning-veil over Catholic Switzerland. The priests hurled their anathemas against every thing that displeased them; stirred up revolt against the governments that were not to their liking; denounced as heretics individuals who ever resisted them; undermined the peace of families, as they did the peace of states; and paved the way for their complete subjection of both to the Church and the Jesuits."

In 1831 the political aspects are not more promising:

"Herein lies the dominant evil; the Federal Pact has not been altered; it remains as it was in 1815; and, having retained consequently all the faults, deficiencies, and crying injustice which the restored aristocracy, with foreign assistance, forced upon Switzerland, it cannot now be other than an object of scorn and derision to the people.

"It is now to be seen how this great evil can be amicably removed. How, without risking the intervention of the great powers, can this all-obstructing pact be overturned? It might perhaps have been achieved in 1831, when unity and energy prevailed in the great cantons, for at that time the public ferment in France, and the yet tottering dynasty of Louis Philippe, were allies since lost to the Swiss.

"The deficiencies of the Federal Pact became then so manifest, that it seemed incomprehensible how it had been tolerated so long, and why the whole edifice had not fallen to pieces in times of such vehement commotion. According to this pact, all the cantons, the smallest and the greatest, had precisely the same voice in the

Diet. The votes of Glarus, Unterwalden, Uri, or Zug, with their 15,000 or 30,000 inhabitants, had as much weight as those of Vaud or Aargau with 185,000, Zurich with 234,000, or Berne with 400,000. If it should please the lesser cantons to oppose any measure by means of this extraordinary equality of vote, which is the more unnatural as the cantons are assessed according to their size and population for the common burdens, for representation in foreign countries, for military contingents, in short, for every thing affecting Switzerland as a nation,—in such a case no change in the Federal Union would be possible; and this is actually the case at the present time, in defiance of reason and the vehement opposition of three-fourths of the Swiss people. The lesser cantons are perfectly aware how much they would lose by any change in this respect. They fear the power of the great cantons, they fear the loss of their cantonal sovereignty, and the justly apportioned influence of a real Swiss Diet; hence they prefer an alliance with the Catholic party, and lending themselves to priestly and aristocratic intrigue, to making a great sacrifice to their common country.

"After the year 1831, the two great parties in Switzerland began to split up into factions.

"It may be easily imagined how motley a face party strife now presented on the narrow arena of Switzerland, where extremes must necessarily come so much in contact: and no less fierce and passionate than the German cantons were Ticino and Valais, where the Jesuits and the aristocratic party were in power. Things were not more tranquil either in Freiburg and Vaud, nor on the shores of Lake Lemán, where the sect of the Methodists was endeavouring to establish itself. Madame de Krudener, the celebrated founder of the Holy Alliance, having set up as enthusiast and prophetess, after a youth of licence, had laid, during her abode in Geneva, the foundation of a hypocritical devotion, which was farther extended by the influence of some rich English and Scotch families settled in that city.

"Her companion and almoner—a young Geneva pastor named Empaytaz—connected himself with other individuals among the clergy, and with the Englishmen Drummond and Haldane, whose wealth and credit in England gave abundant support to their fanaticism. The people—properly so called—were too active, too busy, and too cheerful to listen to them; but they found followers among the upper classes, and their affected piety was found an excellent instrument for bringing the masses under the yoke. From Geneva, the Methodists spread into Vaud, where, in the year 1818, they received the name of Mummers, in derision, which has remained by them, and is used throughout French Switzerland to designate pious hypocrites. Vaud, so long held in vassalage by Berne, afforded exactly those conditions of superstition and blind faith so favourable to the growth of Methodism. Pastor Melan of Geneva, and several Englishmen, performed their mission zealously, and in a few years there was a most abundant crop of enthusiasm, religious frenzy, and family discord. The population was split up into parties; the Mummers were roughly handled; and so great was the scandal, that the government were obliged to interfere, and acted with great severity. Unfortunately the majority of the younger clergy, and a number of the wealthier families, belonged to this sect; and persecution only increased their zeal: the government became at last aware of this, and repealed the law that had been enforced against them. The Mummers had once more possession of the field, and thought the game was already won; but a newer and better defence was now raised in the natural course of things. Popular freedom had now fairly struck root; a more enlight-

ened spirit began to show itself; and when, in 1839, the Great Council declared all creeds of the Helvetic Church, or any other, non-obligatory, and acknowledged the Bible as the only rule of faith, the awakened intelligence of the people became an effectual barrier to the future progress of the Mummers, from whom Vaud is now almost free. They had never been able to make any way in German Switzerland; partly on account of the greater enlightenment of the people, and partly because the kindred German pietism, which was better suited to them, had pre-occupied the ground."

But here, for the week, we must pause, leaving much further interesting matter for another Gazette.

DANCING.

Notes upon Dancing, Historical and Practical. By C. Blasis. 8vo. Delaporte.

The Ballet Master to the Royal Italian Opera, Covent Garden, appears here in a grand *tour de force*. He belongs to a family of genius, and in his own practical art stands, what the people at Lloyd's call, "A 1," and dancing is no poor subject for a treatise. Much has been done through dancing—much is doing by dancing; and to the end of the chapter, we believe, much will be done in consequence of dancing. We may consider it in many lights. It is often, and has been from all antiquity, a very prominent portion in sacred rites. In Judea it was glorified, in Pagan multifarious-God-worshipping nations it was one of the chiefest of mysteries, throughout the East is an eminent profession, among savages it is one of their greatest ceremonies; and among every people throughout every age of the world it has been a favourite pastime, recreation, and amusement.

There is another way in which to view dancing, upon which depends the divided censure and praise which it obtains in the world—we mean of course its moral effects. By some it is bitterly condemned in every way: by others it is held to be most innocent and healthful for youth. Much must depend on place, manner, and character. Casino associations, mixed masquerade and fancy balls, and other entertainments of the sort, now so common in London, are no doubt very demoralizing and injurious to both sexes who frequent them. They are of the impure; but their evil qualities do not affect the pure any more than the exhibitions of nude Lady Godivas on horseback, could be thought to be of a class with a modest woman riding gracefully through our streets. *Poses plastiques* are outrageous seductions to lewdness and vice; not so beautiful statues, executed with all the chasteness which ever pertains to the true in art. Hercules may have his choice between the two; but they are as different as Night and Day.*

Now M. Blasis and his book are of the pure style in literature and art, and music and dancing—all of them human delights if properly cultivated and enjoyed! And he is a fond and naturally an enthusiastic admirer of the last, of which his historical *précis* is rich and illustrative:

"Lucian, in his celebrated dialogue upon Dancing, raised the art to much dignity, by representing it in its true light. He pointed out its utility; showed the many advantages that might be derived from it; described all the charms with which it is adorned: and confirmed the judgment of those who had placed it in the same rank with Tragedy and Comedy. * * *

"The corruption that had crept into the theatrical exhibitions of ancient Rome, induced

* As "among the ancients there were two distinct kinds of dancing, one for respectable and well-bred people, while the other kind was practised by debauchees, and the lower classes. And this distinction may be traced as existing in the time of Homer. (*Iliad*, Book 13.) From whence it would seem, many of our modern dancers might learn something, even from those of the age of Alopous."

Trajan to forbid them entirely; in consequence of which they were for awhile abandoned. Some time after that emperor's death they again made their appearance, but still accompanied by the same obscenities to which they owed their decline. In the same manner, the Christian pontiffs followed the example of Trajan, by prohibiting their performance.

"At length, after a lapse of some centuries, modern Italy produced Bergonzio di Botta, the reviver of dancing, music, and histrionic diversions. He signalled himself in the fête which he had prepared for Galeazzo, Duke of Milan, on the marriage of that prince to Isabella of Arragon.* The taste and magnificence displayed in this superb festival at Tortona, was imitated by all the principal towns in Italy, which appeared eagerly to concur in the regeneration of these delightful arts.

"Italy has been, at different periods, the garden or seminary of every art and science. It is the native country of Dante, Columbus, Galileo, and Machiavel; there also the genius of Dancing shone forth, with more grace and elegance than was known to the ancients."

We have dismissed the corruptions, says our authority, for the utmost graces of motion:

"Taste and experience having at length established principles and precepts by which the steps, attitudes, and motions were systematically classed and arranged, all was afterwards done according to rule and method, and the strictest harmony was established with the time and cadence of the accompanying music. The works of the best sculptors and painters, must have served as models towards the attainment of grace and elegance in the various positions adopted in dancing, as they did to the Greek and Roman mimes, in their dumb gesticulations. Dancing thus made rapid strides towards its attainment to the rank of a delightful imitative art, ever acknowledging pantomime as its guide and companion.

"Dancing, pantomime, and histrionic splendour, have in the present day, been carried to a very high degree of perfection."

Now here is a masterly poetic description from Marino:

"Terpsichore, the Goddess of Dancing, finding herself alone, betakes herself to the pleasures of graceful movements. First she retires, then advances, displaying, as she lightly trips along, a beautiful knee. While occupied in arranging a prelude of steps, her attention is fixed on the harmonious sounds. She flies around her new theatre; her motion quickens, and her steps increase; so buoyant she appears, that waves might well sustain her tread. Skilfully she pauses on her small foot, giving to every limb some graceful attitude. Now, she is seen to retire, and now again returns; now she seems to vanish away, and now she re-appears. Darting from side to side, she glances over the ground like the lightning that suddenly shoots through the serenity of a summer's night.

"Every motion of the Goddess is light and well-studied, and scarcely does she deign to touch the earth. She wantons gaily, and springs aloft with such velocity, that her winged feet deceive the sight, and seldom can we detect which foot it is that prints the soil. Shooting along in airy bounds, she traces circles with her limber feet; then, with steps exact, retraces them, enlarging and diminishing; as the dipping waves that dance along the bright Meander; such are the motions of her twinkling feet, whether on

* See *Encyclopédie Française*, art. "BAL."—Nothing can be more curious than the description of these Italian fêtes; they show clearly by their magnificence, fancy, variety and taste, the enthusiastic genius of the Italians, and prove their love for what is lofty, pompous, and picturesque. M. Blasis, a friend of the Countess Michiel of Venice, author of the 'Venetian Fêtes,' dedicated to her the description of many fêtes which took place in the sixteenth century."

earth, or quivering in the air; whether she lightly trips, or firmly trends the ground.

"When she springs aloft, she seems the spiny flame; and when she skims along, like the undulating wave; but her more stately turns assume the whirlwind's power, and seem like the eddying whirlpool stirred by the tempest. An harmonious symmetry prevails throughout her whole person. The attitude of one limb induces corresponding movements in the rest. Each foot moves but by mental consent, it ever answers to the other in fraternal motion. The strictest ties unite her to the measure, never is a line mistaken or a step misplaced. The linked and entwined figures of her dance are varied to suit the change of melody; marking each note, and minding every pause; promptly she obeys each phrase of music, which she respects as the guide of every gesture. Now she advances, stops, rises, leaps aloft, bends gently, and then regains the upright attitude.

"Suddenly she pauses in mid-dance, assumes another attitude, and, on the instant, her whole style is changed: her feet separating, form a figure not to be surpassed for mathematical precision; she turns, she wheels around and seems a revolving sphere, or perhaps resembling rather the peacock's airy plumes. One foot is firmly fixed in the centre, while the other swiftly marks the outer circumference. Adopting a new position and supporting her whole figure on her left foot, the rapidity of her motion is greater than the flight of the darted *Palet*. With grace inimitable she now regains the spot from whence she parted, there stops, then springs aloft and hangs her feet on nothing, quivering in the air. Again she springs on high, and in that spring she strikes her feet twice together, and strongly agitates her lower limbs. From her greatest elevation she descends but slowly; and so lightly does she regain the ground, that no one can distinguish when her noiseless foot alights. Around she flies! how admirable! and with what truth she finds again her first position. The darting lightning, or the winged arrow, goes not a swifter course than she, as she sweeps along with agile springs and airy bounds."

M. Blasis condemns the *Chica* as lascivious and voluptuous; and he might add some others of our usual scenic exhibitions to the same category. But we like him for advocating always the graceful and decorous, with an aim at expression of a high, though passionate order. His *Euloge* is characteristic:

"But to describe more particularly and technically the effects produced upon the frame, by the practice of dancing, it must be remarked, that the whole body moves with more freedom, and acquires grace and ease. The shoulders and arms are thrown back, while the lower limbs become strong and active; the muscular masses about the hips, thighs, and legs, are developed, and acquire symmetry; the feet constantly present an outward turn; and it follows that the entire gait and comportment display such firmness and elegance, that it is soon apparent the art of which we treat has been cultivated. Dancing is of signal service, and almost indispensable to young people; motion with them is continually necessary, while the exertion of their strength is a sure means of increasing it.

"To all persons, whatever may be their situation in society, strength and activity are acceptable. All, there can be no doubt, would be happy to possess at least some exterior endowments allied to the beautiful; it is a natural desire. And among those whose rank enables them to frequent the best company, elegance of deportment is a first requisite. Now nothing can render the entire frame more graceful and firm, than dancing and pantomimic exercises. Many gymnastic exercises are calculated to strengthen or beautify particular parts of the body, while they weaken others, and sometime

even introduce a kind of deformity into them. Thus, fencing invigorates the arms and legs, but causes the rest of the frame to become in some degree unshapely. Horsemanship increases the thickness of the loins, but debilitates the thighs; and many other exercises, particularly if practised to excess, leave something objectionable about those who follow them, either by preference or from necessity. It is not, indeed, in the nature of any one exercise individually, or all united, to bestow that charm in motion and manners which dancing alone is capable of producing. The practice of this art subjects the head, shoulders, arms, hands, legs and feet, and every part of the body, to a certain symmetrical grace, the charm of which cannot be conveyed in words, but must be seen in the person to be completely felt and understood. To females, dancing is most generally useful and necessary; their more delicate constitutions require to be strengthened by such an exercise. And for multitudes who are condemned to follow an unmitigated sedentary occupation, dancing becomes, in reality, life-preserving."

The Milan school, on which M. Blasis bestowed all the benefits of his highest teaching, appears to have acquired the utmost that could be accomplished in the *grande leçon*; but we have said enough to introduce his book to the public, and have only to add, that his family biography, illustrated by portraits, is far from being the least amusing portion of it.

The effects we trust to witness on the opera boards, now about to open their attractions; and we will seriously observe, that the nearer our fair dancers keep to his precepts the more becoming and beautiful, and the less objectionable will their wonderful performances be.

A Description of Active and Extinct Volcanos, of Earthquakes, and of Thermal Springs; with remarks on the Causes of these Phenomena, the Character of their respective Products, and their Influence on the past and present Condition of the Globe. By CHARLES DAUBENY, M.D., F.R.S., &c. Second Edition, greatly enlarged. 8vo. Pp. 734. R. and J. E. Taylor.

As a sequel and context to Dr. Whewell's lecture at the British Institution, reported in our number of Jan. 29, nothing could be more apposite and conclusive than this volume by Dr. Daubeny. From the first edition philosophical readers are cognizant of his universal views, and the details of their working out; whence he deduces those great hypotheses on which his explanations of the phenomena are based. The strength of his reasoning is of a convincing force; but, according to the reference we have just made, it would signify little whether it were demonstrably true or largely false. Out of the elements he has elicited, the truths of Nature would be equally elaborated. For our parts, much as fire and water, and heat and cold, may have done towards forming past and present conditions of our earth, we are fully convinced that other agents have done much, and that volcanos, not to speak of electricity, have played a very important part in this mighty mundane drama. But however it may have been or be, Dr. Daubeny's book is one of infinite research and great worth—a book to be valued wherever science is studied. Independently of the grand question it involves, the particular portions relating to volcanic products are exceedingly interesting. In short, it is itself an admirable product of the press, handsomely illustrated, and full of high intelligence.

A Glance at the Globe and at the Worlds around us. By Jefferys Taylor. Pp. 247. Holston and Stoneman.

A coon volume for youth, and full of popular information on astronomy, natural history, and other topics of a useful order.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

SHAKSPERIANA.

To the Editor of the Literary Gazette.

Newcastle on Tyne.—7th Feb. 1848.

SIR.—Will you forgive me a remark or two on Halliwell's *Shakspeare*? In a letter given at p. 225, dated 1608, we find the writer speaking of the two bearers as "one, i.e. Richard Burbage, being a man famous as our English Roscius, who hath become possessed of the Blackfriars' Playhouse, which has been employed for plays since it was built by his father now near 50 years ago; the other hath to name William Shakspeare, they are both of one country, and indeed almost of one town". Now at p. 23, we have mention made of one "Francis Berbage master ballif that now is," 1558. Can this Francis Berbage have been the father of Richard Burbage, and, if so, may not this account in some way for Shakspeare's entering on the profession of an actor?

I think this letter may have been written by Sir Henry Savile, to Thomas Lord Egerton, the then Chancellor.

JOHN BERRLEY, JUN.

[We have much pleasure in inserting the above letter, and think our correspondent's suggestions worthy of careful consideration. When it is recollected that the word *country* in the letter referred to stands for *county*, as usual in many early works, a high probability is raised that Shakspeare and Burbage played together in their early youth.—Ed. L.G.]

Shakspeare's Removal to London.—Rowe says that Shakspeare removed to London, leaving his business and family in Warwickshire, and it is to be observed that no contemporary evidence has been produced to show that his family ever resided with him in the metropolis. His daughter Susanna was born at Stratford in May, 1683, and Hamnet and Judith, twin-children, were born in the same town early in 1685, the son dying at Stratford in August, 1696. It seems evident that the poet was always intimately associated with his native town, and never made a removal from it of a permanent character. The probability may be in favour of his never having relinquished what establishment he may have possessed at Stratford, and, if so, his association with the drama may have commenced almost as early as the date of his marriage with Anne Hathaway. This is a point which will probably never be correctly ascertained, but it is by no means necessary to suppose that the deprecation committed on Sir Thomas Lucy, and its consequences, were the only reasons for his entering on a new profession. I have proved, on undeniable evidence, that in March, 29 Eliz., 1587, Shakspeare's father was in prison, for on the 29th day of that month he produced a writ of habeas corpus in the Stratford Court of Record. Previously to this period, we discover him in transactions which leave no room for doubting that he was in difficulties, or at least in circumstances that placed him in a delicate legal position. Join to this the certainty that these matters would affect his son, with the traditions relating to the latter, and reason will be found quite sufficient for Shakspeare's important step of joining the metropolitans players.—*Halliwell's Life of Shakspeare.*

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS.

In Search of Sir J. Franklin.

As the *Literary Gazette* has, from the time of the expedition of Sir Edward Parry, taken a lively interest in these voyages, and in communicating every particular concerning them to the public, we doubt not our readers will have looked to it for the earliest information respecting the expeditions now preparing to proceed in search of Sir J. Franklin, Captain Crozier, and their gallant companions. We have actively sought the needful intelligence, and have now to make the results known.

On the 1st of February, Sir James Clarke Ross commissioned the *Enterprise*, of 470 tons, built of teak wood, by Messrs. Wigram, which is still on the stocks, and being fortified for the service to which it is destined. The preparations are proceeding with all dispatch, and in the most effectual manner.

The second vessel, the *Investigator*, of 420 tons, built by Scott and Son, to be commanded by Captain Bird, as we formerly announced, has been launched at Greenock, is now being towed round by a steamer, and is daily expected to be taken into Mr. Green's dock, to be fitted for the voyage. It is of very strong build, but will also have the necessary additions made.

Both ships will be ready to sail by the end of April, should nothing be heard of Sir John Franklin before that time through the medium of the Hudson's Bay Company. They will be manned by 70 men in each ship, and provisioned for three years; and we go on to sketch the outline of what it is proposed they should do. Exposed to similar obstacles and difficulties as those whose track they are to endeavour to follow, and the same pressure of ice, they will make their way to Lancaster Sound; both shores of which they will carefully search, and also of Barrow's Straits on their way to the Westward. If the weather permit they will proceed to Wellington Channel and examine it, and the Coast between Cape Clarence and Cape Walker, in the ships or boats as may be deemed advisable. This coast, we may observe, is usually encumbered with heavy ice, and therefore both ships will be cautious not to go so far as to hazard being beset, and shut up for the winter. If they find a convenient harbour near Garnier Bay or Cape Rennell, they will there secure one of the ships for the winter; from this point the coast will be explored as far as it extends to the west, and also the western coast of Boothia, to join on with Sir James Ross's discoveries in 1831. This may readily be done by boats in the autumn, or walking parties in the spring, and other parties will also be sent out in such other directions as may appear desirable at the time. As soon as the water along the coast admits, the Steam Launch (one of which accompanies each ship) will be dispatched to Lancaster Sound to communicate with the Whalers, which every year visit that quarter, so as to obtain any information that might have arrived from Sir John Franklin. This will be about the month of August, 1849.

The easternmost vessel being, in the way we have stated, secured for the winter, the second, viz. the *Enterprise*, Sir James Ross, will proceed to the westward, examining the several chart lines on the way, and seeking winter quarters in Melville Island or Banks' Land. From this, diverging parties will be despatched early in spring, before the breaking up of the ice. The first of these will trace the western coast of Banks' Land to the southward; and proceeding to Cape Bathurst, or some other conspicuous point of the continent as previously agreed on with Sir John Richardson, will reach the Hudson's Bay Settlement on the Mackenzie, and thence make their way home through their territories. A second party from the vessel will explore the eastern shore of Banks' Land, making their way to Cape Krusenstern, also on the American continent, and communicate with Sir John Richardson's party on its descending the Coppermine River in the spring of 1849; and either assist him in exploring Victoria and Wollaston Land, or return to England by any advisable route.

These two parties would thus pass over the space where most probably the ships have become involved, if they should not have accomplished the passage, and would, therefore, have the best chance of communicating to Sir John Franklin information of the measures which had

been adopted for his relief, and direct him to the best point to proceed, if he should consider it necessary to abandon his ships. Other parties might be despatched as the commander might see fit, according to circumstances; but the steam-vessels should certainly be employed to keep up the communication between the ships, and transmit such intelligence for their guidance as might be necessary for the safety and success of the undertaking.

Having disposed of the Naval Expedition, we come now to that committed to the charge of Sir John Richardson:—Sir John Richardson himself will leave England in the first week of March, to join his party, which will have passed the winter on the Great Bear Lake, and be in time to proceed, when the ice breaks up on the rivers, down the Mackenzie to the sea. His force will consist of twenty men in two boats, and he will carry with him eight tons of Pemecan, for the relief of Sir John Franklin's Party, should he meet them in the course of the examination of the coast between the Mackenzie and Coppermine, or the southern shore of Victoria and Wollaston Land, which it is their intention thoroughly to explore in the course of the summer. Should they fail in their object, they will return to their winter quarters, on Great Bear Lake; and make the necessary preparations to examine the isles and coasts to the southward and to the eastward of the Coppermine River in the summer of 1850, if accounts from home should make the continuance of the operations necessary.

Combined with these operations, parties from the *Plover*, stationed near Behring's Straits, will carry on similar expeditions along the coast to the Mackenzie River, and thus connect the whole together.

It will thus be seen how closely every possible contingency has been taken into consideration and provided for, and we congratulate the friends and relatives of those, about whom the public feel so deep an interest, and we extend that congratulation to the country at large, on the promptitude and efficiency of the measures in progress, to do all that human foresight can do to guard against any misfortune that might threaten our gallant countrymen in their noble enterprise.

CHLOROFORM.

A MODIFICATION OF M. Soubeiran's process of preparing chloroform has been proposed by MM. Huraud and Laroque, rendering the production of chloroform more expeditious and less costly:—Let 35 litres of water be placed in a still in a water-bath, and raised to a temperature of 36° to 40°; then in it dilute 5 kilogrammes of quick lime, previously slaked, and 10 kilogrammes of the chloride of lime of commerce. Then put in 1½ litre of alcohol at 85 degrees; and when well mixed, lute and raise the temperature as quickly as possible to the boiling point of water. In a few minutes the head of the still becomes heated, and when the heat has reached the extremity of the neck, reduce the fire; soon distillation goes on rapidly, and continues of itself to the end of the operation. Separate the chloroform by the ordinary methods; only instead of distilling, as recommended by M. Soubeiran, the liquors which float on the chloroform, preserve them for a subsequent operation, which commence immediately. Introduce anew into the still, without removing anything therefrom, 10 litres of water; raise again to 36° or 40°, and then add 3 to 4 kilogrammes of the lime, and 10 kilogrammes of the chloride. Mix carefully; then pour in the chloroformic liquor of the preceding operation, with the addition of one litre only of alcohol, and proceed as before; with a still sufficiently large, a third, and even a fourth operation may be conducted, employing the same doses of substances and working as above.

In four operations MM. Huraud and Laroque generally obtain, with 45 litres, or 3-825k. of alcohol at 85 degrees,—from the first distillation, 550 grammes of chloroform; from the second, 640; from the third, 700; from the fourth, 730; in all, 2,620 grammes of chloroform.

Calculating the quantity of the materials used and the weight of the product obtained by the above process, the cost of the chloroform is not above 14 francs the kilogramme. MM. Huraud and Laroque find that the more rapidly the operation is conducted, the greater is the quantity of chloroform produced; and it is to this end they heat the water before putting in the lime and the chloride. By using the water-bath, too, and the lime, the boiling over, which in M. Soubeiran's process is so considerable, is scarcely sensible. The chloroform of their process does not contain chlorine when well-worked; they say also that the spirit of wood, if it give a little more product than alcohol, is less advantageous, because of its higher price, and because of the disagreeable odour it gives to the chloroform.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.

Friday, February 4.—The Duke of Northumberland, President, in the chair.—The fossil foot-marks of a reptile in the coal-formation of the Alleghany Mountains, by Chas. Lyell, F.R.S. &c.

Mr. Lyell began by observing, that notwithstanding the numerous remains of land-plants in the carboniferous strata, and the evidence they afford of the existence of large tracts of dry land (the exact position of which is often indicated by seams of coal and buried forests), no monuments of any air-breathing creatures had been detected in rocks of such high antiquity, until Dr. King, in 1844, published his account of the foot-prints of a reptile occurring in sandstone in Pennsylvania. (See *Silliman's Journal*, vol. xlviii, p. 343.) These fossil tracks were found in a stone-quarry, five miles S.E. of Greensburg, and about twenty miles E. of Pittsburg, appearing on the under surfaces of slabs of argillaceous sandstone extracted for paving. They project in relief, being casts of impressions formed in a subjacent layer of fine unctuous clay, and they are accompanied by numerous casts of cracks of various sizes, evidently produced by the drying and shrinking of the clayey mud. These cracks occasionally traverse the foot-prints, shewing that the shrinkage took place after the animal had walked over the soft mud and before it had begun to dry and crack. Mr. Lyell exhibited a slab which he had brought from the quarries, having visited them with Dr. King, and then proceeded to point out the differences between these foot-prints and those of the European *Cheirotherium* found in Saxony, and in Warwickshire and Cheshire, always in the upper part of the new red sandstone, or trias. In the European hand-shaped foot-marks, from the form of which the animal was called by Kaup "*Cheirotherium*," both the hind and fore feet have each five toes, and the size of the hind foot is about five times as large as the fore foot. In the American fossil the posterior foot-print is not twice as large as the anterior, and the number of toes is unequal, being five in the hinder and four in the anterior foot. As in the European *Cheirotherium*, the fifth toe stands out nearly at a right angle with the foot, and somewhat resembles the human thumb. On the external side of all the Pennsylvania tracks, both the larger and smaller, there is a protuberance like the rudiment of another toe. The average length of the hind foot is 54 inches, and of the fore foot 44. The fore and hind feet being in pairs follow each other very closely, there being an interval of about one inch only between them. Between each pair the distance is 6 to 8 inches, and between the two parallel lines of tracks there is about the same distance. In the case of the English and German *Cheirotherium*, the hind and fore feet

occur in pairs, but they form only one row, in consequence of the animal having put its feet to the ground nearly under the middle of its body, and the thumb-like toes are seen to turn to the right and to the left in the alternate pairs. But in the American tracks, which form two parallel rows, all the thumb-like toes in one set turn to the right, and in the other set to the left. Mr. Lyell infers, therefore, that the American Cheirotherium belongs to a new genus of reptilian quadrupeds, wholly distinct from that which characterises the triassic strata of Europe, and such a generic diversity, he observes, might have been expected in reptilian fossils of such different ages.

The geological position of the sandstone of Greensburg is perfectly clear, being situated in the midst of the Appalachian coal-field, having the main bed of coal, called the Pittsburg seam, a hundred feet above it, worked in the neighbourhood, and several other seams of coal at lower levels. The impressions of *Lepidodendron*, *Sigillaria*, *Stigmara*, and other carboniferous plants, are found both above and below the level of the reptilian footprints.

Mr. Lyell then adverted to some spurious fossil foot-prints of dogs, hoofed quadrupeds, birds, and other creatures, seen on the surface of ledges of a soft quartzose sandstone, in the neighbourhood of Greensburg, which had been confounded with the fossil ones. He pointed out the proofs that these had been carved by the ancient inhabitants of America, whose graves are seen in the vicinity, and that the Indian hunters had sculptured similar bird-tracks, together with human foot-prints in solid limestone of the State of Missouri, the true origin of which was explained by Mr. D. D. Owen, of Indiana. (For some account of Mr. Lyell's observations on the Pennsylvanian Cheirotherium, see *Quarterly Geological Journal*, 1846, vol. ii. p. 147, and *Silkman's American Journal*, 1846, vol. xlviii. p. 343.)

To illustrate the mode of interpreting fossil foot-prints in geology, Mr. Lyell gave a sketch of the discovery of three distinct species of Cheirotherium in Europe, and explained how, after it had been conjectured by Link that they might belong to gigantic Batrachians, Mr. Owen found, by examining the teeth and bones of reptiles of triassic age, that three different species of air-breathing reptiles of the batrachian order, referable to a new genus, *Labyrinthodon*, had existed, both in Germany and England, at that period; and their fossil bones indicate that they were air-breathers, and that there is as great a disparity in size between the bones of their anterior and posterior extremities, as between the fore and hind foot-prints of the several Cheirotheria. To account for the sharpness of the casts of Cheirotherium on the under surfaces of slabs of sandstone, Mr. Lyell adverted to the manner in which he had seen, on the sea-beach near Savannah, in Georgia, a cloud of fine sand drifted by the wind filling up the foot-prints of racoons and opossums, which a few hours before had passed along the shore after the retreat of the tide.

Allusion was also made to the recent foot-prints of birds called sandpipers (*tinga minuta*), which Mr. Lyell saw running, in 1842, over the red mud thrown down every tide along the borders of estuaries connected with the Bay of Fundy, in Nova Scotia. These consist both of impressions on the upper surfaces, and of casts in relief on the under sides of successive layers of red mud (see *Lyell's Travels in North America*, vol. ii. p. 166), of which he has presented a specimen to the British Museum.

The ancient foot-prints of more than thirty species of birds, found fossil in the New Red Sandstone or trias of the valley of the Connecticut river, in Massachusetts, were next stated to be analogous to these modern bird-tracks; and the size of the largest, although they indicate a

biped more huge than the ostrich, is exceeded in magnitude by the gigantic *Deinornis* of New Zealand, of which nearly the entire skeleton has just been found fossil by Mr. Walter Mantell. The absence hitherto of the bones of birds in the ancient American strata of the triassic period appears to Mr. Lyell quite intelligible; for the circumstances which combine to cause foot-prints of sandpipers in the recent mud of the Bay of Fundy, repeated throughout many successive layers, have no tendency to preserve any bones of the same birds, and none have yet been ever observed in cutting trenches through the red mud where it has been laid dry by artificial embankments and drained. In all the cases of foot-prints, both fossil and recent, and whether made by quadrupeds or bipeds, the lecturer insisted on the necessity of assuming that the creatures were air-breathers; for their weight would not have been sufficient under water to have made impressions so deep and distinct. The same conclusion is also borne out by the evidence derived from the casts of cracks produced in the same strata by shrinkage, and so generally accompanying impressions of feet; and it was remarked that similar effects of desiccation are observable in the recent mud of Nova Scotia, where thousands of acres are dried by the sun in summer between the spring and neap tides. The ripple-mark, also so common in strata of every age, and, among others, in the Coal Measures and New Red Sandstone, both of Germany, England, and America, exemplifies the accurate preservation of superficial markings of strata, often less prominent than those caused by the tread of reptiles or large birds.

"Coming events cast their shadows before." As the discovery of three species of Cheirotheria was soon followed by the recognition of as many species of *Labyrinthodon*, so the announcement by Dr. King, in 1844, of reptilian foot-prints in the coal strata of Pennsylvania has been followed by the news, lately received from Germany, that in the ancient coal measures of Saarbrück, near Treves (the antiquity of which is vouched for by Von Dechen), Professor Goldfuss has lately found the skeleton of a true Saurian. Dr. Falconer, after a cursory examination of the original specimens, has stated his opinion in favour of its reptilian character; and, although the evidence has not yet been rigorously tested by the most eminent comparative osteologists of Europe, Mr. Lyell believes that the opinion of Professor Goldfuss and Dr. Falconer will be confirmed. Such facts should serve to put us on our guard against premature generalizations founded on mere negative evidence, and caution us not to assume the present limits of our knowledge of the time of the first appearance of any class of beings in a fossil state to be identical with the first creation of such beings.

"I cannot," said the lecturer, "take leave of this subject without alluding to a moral phenomenon, which was forcibly brought before my mind when investigating the geology of these remote valleys of the Alleghanies. The interest excited by the discovery of these singular monuments of the olden times, naturally led to animated discussions, both in lecture-rooms and in the columns of the daily journals, in the course of which the high antiquity of the earth, and the doctrine of former changes in the species of animals and plants inhabiting this planet before the creation of man, were assumed as established truths. But these views were so new and startling, and so opposed to popular prepossessions, that they drew down much obloquy upon their promulgators, who incurred the censures not only of the multitude, but also of some of the Roman Catholic and Lutheran clergy. The social persecution was even carried so far as to injure professionally the practice of several medical men, who had given publicity to

the obnoxious doctrines. Some of the ministers of the Lutheran church, who had studied for years in German universities, were too well informed not to believe in the conclusions established by geologists, respecting the immensity of past time and former vicissitudes both in animal and vegetable life; but although taking a lively interest in discoveries made at their own door, and joining in the investigations, they were compelled by prudence to conceal their opinions from their congregations, or they would have lost all influence over them, and might perhaps have seen their churches deserted. Yet by maintaining silence in deference to the opinions of the more ignorant, they become in some degree the instruments of countenancing and perpetuating errors, and of rearing up the rising generation, so that they shall, in their turn, be the persecutors of such of their contemporaries, as may hereafter be in advance of the rest in scientific knowledge."

You will remember that Goldsmith makes his traveller say, in the *Vicar of Wakefield*, that after he had walked through Europe and examined mankind nearly, he found that it was not the forms of government, whether they be monarchies or commonwealths, that determined the amount of liberty enjoyed by individuals, but that "riches in general were in every country another name for freedom." I agree with Goldsmith that the forms of government are not alone sufficient to secure freedom—they are but means to an end. Here we have in Pennsylvania a free press, a widely extended suffrage, and the most perfect religious toleration, nay more than toleration, all the various sects enjoying political equality, and what is more rare, an equality of social rank; yet all this machinery is not capable, as we have seen, of securing even so much of intellectual freedom as shall enable a student of nature to discuss freely the philosophical questions which the progress of science brings naturally before him. He cannot even announce with impunity, results which half a century of observation and reasoning has confirmed by evidence little short of mathematical demonstration. But can riches, as Goldsmith suggests, secure intellectual liberty? No doubt they can protect the few who possess them from pecuniary penalties, when they profess unpopular doctrines. But to enable a man to think, he must be allowed to communicate freely his thoughts to others. Until they have been brought into the daylight and discussed, they will never be clear even to himself. They must be warmed by the sympathy of kindred minds, and stimulated by the heat of controversy, or they will never be fully developed and made to ripen and fructify.

How, then, can we obtain this liberty? There is only one method; it is by educating the millions, and by dispelling their ignorance, prejudices, and bigotry.

Let Pennsylvania establish innumerable schools, and organize as good a system of government instruction as Massachusetts, raising as highly the pay and station in society of the secular teachers, and the persecution I have complained of will cease at once and for ever. For, in parts of New England, the education of the masses has with success been carried farther than in any other part of Anglo-Saxondom, whether on that side of the Atlantic or on this.

Many, I know, think the project of so instructing the millions to be Utopian; and it would be so, if it were necessary that all should understand the patient and laborious trains of research and reasoning by which we have arrived at all grand generalizations in geology and other branches of physical science. But this is not requisite for the desired end. We have simply to communicate the results, and that waiting till they have been established for half-a-century, but rather preparing the public mind for new conclusions as soon as they become highly probable.

It is as easy to teach a peasant or a child that the earth moves round the sun, as to inculcate the old exploded dogma that it is the motionless centre of the universe. He is as willing to believe that our planet is of indefinite antiquity, as that it is only 6,000 years old. Tell him that the earth was inhabited by other races of animals and plants before the creation of man, as we now know it to have been, and the idea is not more difficult for him to conceive than the notion which is usually allowed to take root in his mind, that man and the species of animals and plants now our contemporaries were the first occupants of this globe. All that we require when once a good system of primary schools has been organized, is a moderate share of moral courage and love of truth on the part of the laity and clergy; and then the academical chair and scientific lecture-room, and every pulpit and every village school, may be made to speak the same language in regard to those natural phenomena which are of a kind to strike and interest the popular mind, making impossible that collision of opinion, so much to be deprecated, between the multitude and the learned.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

February 7.—Mr. W. Spence, F.R.S., President in the chair. The President having returned thanks for his re-election, nominated Captain Parry, F.L.S., W. W. Saunders, Esq., F.L.S., and W. Yarrell, Vice-President, L.S., Vice-Presidents for the ensuing year. Mr. Inghen exhibited a fossil Dragon Fly in a remarkably fine state of preservation, showing clearly the smallest nervules of the wings. This specimen, which was found by the Rev. P. B. Brodie, was considered by Mr. Westwood to be a small species of the genus *Diplax*.

Mr. W. W. Saunders exhibited some new and remarkable *Coleoptera* from Mexico.

Mr. A. H. Haliday read a paper on the insect described by Mr. Westwood under the name of *Branchiotoma Spongille*. This insect inhabits the fresh-water sponge, and has been conjectured by Dr. Erichson to be the larva of one of the *Hemerobiidae*, the *Sisyra fuscata* of Dr. Barmeister (*Hemerobius fuscatus*, Fabr.) After noticing some errors in the observations of Mr. Westwood and Dr. Grube, the author entered at considerable length into the external and internal anatomy of both the *Branchiotoma*, and the *Sisyra*, especially contrasting the differences in their internal anatomy, with the changes which take place in the intestinal canal, and its appendages in the genus *Hemerobius* in the course of its transformations, considering also in what degree the differences in the internal and external structure of the *Branchiotoma*, from the aphidiphagous larvæ of the *Hemerobii*, were due to its aquatic habits and different food. Allowing for these, he shews that, reasoning from analogy, there was ample ground for believing the animalcule of the sponge to be the larvæ of *Sisyra*, a fact in some degree corroborated by the frequent occurrence of *Sisyra* in places where the *Spongilla* is found.

Mr. Gray remarked upon the fact that Mr. Haliday's was the first paper on the anatomy and physiology of insects that had been read at this Society for twelve years, and expressed a hope that a new era was about to commence.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.

January 26.—Mr. George Moore, F.R.S., in the chair. The Secretary read a letter from Mr. John Dwyer, in which he stated, as the Society is to meet for the purpose of investigating the forms of ancient pottery, he begged to present for its acceptance a series of sketches, believing that they may prove of some utility in assisting its researches.

The second communication was from Mr. W.

T. Griffiths, and accompanied a copy of his work on the *Natural System of Architecture*.

Mr. Varley made some remarks in reference to Mr. Dwyer's communication, and stated that although we have many artists of highly cultivated tastes, still they have not the necessary knowledge to enable them to produce good art. In reference to a leaf having given rise to the forms of the Greek vases, he would observe, that a leaf in itself is a pendent body, and as such is very beautiful, but no single leaf would stand upright; we might take some pendent fruits, such as the apple, which might be said to have a base, and some vases might be compared to it, but he did not think that these gave rise to the forms of the Greek vases, although he must admit that Nature was the first teacher of everything that is beautiful.

The Secretary made some remarks on the forms of vases, and stated that if beauty consisted in the imitation of Nature, as suggested by Mr. Dwyer, a man would have nothing to do but to take the first leaf of a tree as soon as he came to it; instead of which, discontented with the first fifty leaves, he goes on seeking and seeking, till at last he finds one which pleases him because it comes up to the ideas in his own mind, and which he had preconceived as the standard of beauty.

Mr. Wyndham Farding observed, that the effect of vases, and other domestic utensils, as well as the architecture of everyday life, should produce on the eye an equally pleasing effect with music on the ear; that is, in order to obtain harmony in music, it is necessary that the cords or wires should each vibrate a certain number of times—so should the proportions of one part of a vase bear a given relation to those of another. In relation to architecture, several persons have considered that certain numerical, simple proportions can be traced as existing in the various members of ancient Greek temples, and Mr. Donaldson states, that he has revived the means of determining the precise proportion of various parts of all Gothic buildings. These geometric and harmonic relations must have been known to the Greeks in the formation of their works, and he concluded by alluding to Mr. Hay's paper on "Symmetrical Beauty," published in the *Society's Transactions* in which the mode of striking the ellipse and applying it to the formation of vases is described.

Mr. Smith stated, that he did not consider that geometry was used by the ancients to the extent to which it is generally attributed to them, but that their works were the result of a practised eye and hand, guided by a highly cultivated taste.

The thanks of the meeting having been voted to Mr. Dwyer and Mr. Griffiths for their communications and presents, the meeting adjourned.

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

February 3.—Viscount Mahon, President, in the chair.—Mr. W. R. Hamilton, presented a bulla or leaden seal, of Pope Boniface IX., which had been found by the Rev. George Hay Drummond, in the Vicarage garden at Doncaster.—A communication was then read from Mr. J. B. Bunning, relating to the Roman remains lately discovered in Lower Thames-street, of which we have spoken elsewhere.—A letter from Mr. J. G. Akerman to the director was then read, relating to the probable use of the enamelled vase engraved in the 26th volume of the *Archæologia*, plate xxxv. From the examination of the reverse of a large brass coin of Faustina the elder, representing a female figure in the act of offering a sacrifice of perfumes, and holding a vessel precisely similar to that alluded to, he concludes that such enamelled vessels were consecrated to the holding of incense used in funeral ceremonies.

BRITISH ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

Council Meeting, February 9th.—Sir William Chatterton in the Chair. Mr. Neale, of Chelmsford, exhibited a small Roman bronze bust, apparently a steelyard weight, found at Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex. Mr. Albin Tabrams communicated an account of discoveries made in excavating a Saxon barrow in a field at Chavenage Sleigh, Gloucestershire.

Mr. Cobb sent a notice of discoveries of Roman buildings at Sutton Baron, Kent, with a list of 35 coins found there.

Mr. James H. Kent communicated an account of discoveries made in a Saxon cemetery at Stanton and Bardwell, in Suffolk, and of Roman remains found also in the same neighbourhood.

Mr. Rosser communicated a letter from the Rev. George Cox, of Mitchel Dean, Gloucestershire, stating that a large quantity of Roman coins had been found at Lydbrook, in the Forest of Dean, in searching for sandstone for the hearth of a furnace. The workman struck his tool through the pot, and it was demolished. Mr. Cox had seen about a score of them, and had ascertained among them coins of Claudius, Gallienus, and Victorinus, and others which he had not been able to decipher—they were of the small size.

Mr. Fulcher, of Sudbury, Suffolk, gave an account of the discovery of an old pulpit of great beauty, in the church of All Saints, in that town.

Mr. Solly gave an account of the progress of the excavations at St. Albans since the previous meeting; the foundations of the buildings attached to the proscenium have been laid open, and leave no doubt of the real character of the edifice. A number of smaller communications were also laid on the table.

SYRO-EGYPTIAN SOCIETY.

At the meeting of the 8th inst., Dr. Beke read a paper "On an Ethiopic Manuscript, entitled *Mats'hefa Tomar*, or 'The Book of the Letter,' being an account of a letter said to have descended from heaven to St. Athanasius, in the year 1056 of the era of the Greeks, or A.D. 745." This curious document, which was brought by Dr. Krapf from Abyssinia, is similar in character to several Arabic MSS. in the Libraries of the Vatican and British Museum. It contains various religious and moral precepts; but (as the author of the paper plainly showed) its principal object was to enjoin the observance of Sunday. It also directs the observance of the fasts of Wednesday and Friday. Dr. Beke adduced reasons for the opinion that this apocryphal letter was intended for the conversion to Christianity of the *Faldshas*, or Israelites of Abyssinia; and he gave several particulars of the history of this remarkable people, who were formerly very numerous and powerful, but are now only to be found dispersed over some portions of that country. The author of the paper next discussed the subject of the date of the letter. In it mention is made of the celebrated Abyssinian saint and legislator, Abûna Tékla Haimanot, who, in the native annals, is said to have lived in the thirteenth century; whence it would appear that this document must be of a still later date. But Dr. Beke showed, from the accounts given of that personage's history, by the Portuguese Jesuits of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and from the great discrepancy found by himself to exist between the Agau tradition of Lasta and the Ethiopic chronicles, that it is far more probable that the saint flourished as early as the seventh century, and that his name was made use of by the native scribes of a much later period, for the purpose of giving validity to their fabrications, just in the same way as the name of St. Athanasius, who flourished in the fourth, is described, in this Ethiopic letter, as living in the eighth century.

Mr. Ainsworth read the conclusion of Miss Fanny Corboux's "Memoir on an ancient frontier Channel of the Nile," the first part of which, with the accompanying sections, has been recently published.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Monday.—Geographical, 8½ p.m.—Medical, 8 p.m.
Tuesday.—Linnæan, 8 p.m.—Horticultural, 5 p.m.—Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.
Wednesday.—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.—Geological, 8½ p.m. (anniversary).—London Institution, 7 p.m.—Microscopical, 8 p.m. (anniversary).
Thursday.—Royal, 8½ p.m.—Antiquaries, 8 p.m.
Friday.—Royal Institution, 8½ p.m. Dr. Melville on the Zoophyte of our coast; their structure and functions.—Geological, 1 p.m. (anniversary).
Saturday.—Asiatic, 2 p.m.—Westminster Medical, 8 p.m.

FINE ARTS.

THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.

We suppose there is much pleasure in finding fault; for we see a good deal said against this Exhibition. Yet, to us, viewing it not as the grand Academic annual mart, nor as the competing show of the Associated Artists, in Suffolk-street, but rather as the higher school for the rearing and encouragement of rising talent, we confess we see little reason to be dissatisfied with the present year. There is, it is true, little of historical or poetical interest; but the abilities displayed by young artists, some of them the sons of eminent painters, are sufficient to rescue our native art from the slur so readily passed upon it by those whose pride it should be to cheer on, and not to cast down, in the arduous struggle. There is enough to contend with, without the farther drawback of unjust criticism and unkind depression.

Circumstances have this week* detained us from the careful examination we ever wish to bestow on any subject before venturing to offer a public opinion; and our readers will, therefore, we trust, accept from us of a more brief and desultory notice than we usually give on such occasions. We can, however, at the same time vouch for the truth and fairness of our remarks.

No. 1. "A Calm after a Heavy Gale, off Bury Head," F. Danby, A.R.A., had better, we think, have had another,—say an Adriatic,—locality assigned to it. The pink and blue waves assuredly belong to other than English seas; but the clouds, the distance, the vessel in the centre, and the shadows it casts upon the waters, are very fine. No. 12, "A Landscape, Twilight," by the same, reminds us of John Varley, whose sombre and umbrageous foliage and rich brown and golden tints it much resembles, in oil.

No. 2, "Near the Rialto," 19, "The Greek Church, Venice," and 27, "On the Grand Canal," are small highly-finished Caneletti-looking pictures, very cleverly painted; and 177, is "An Interior," with a rich and glowing effect.

Nos. 3, 84, 97, and 360, are four charming little bits, by F. Goodall; the second, "The Irish Piper," bearing off the prize for subject and finish. But the others (3 and 97) are also not unworthy of his very popular pencil; though 360 is rather toyish, and unequal to the rest.

No. 18, "The Bugged Pony," R. Andsell. The pony is certainly not bugged, but on hard ground; and, when we look also at 440, "The Wounded Hound," by the same, we are much inclined to warn this artist, possessed of so much force, to ponder much on the nearness of that quality to exaggeration. There is great power in these pictures, but they are not calculated to please; and we know not why, in the last, the one dog is so much distressed because the other has met with an accident. This is not true canine feeling, which tells so in a picture when rightly expressed.

No. 38, "Fruit," G. Lance. Admirably

* Subjourned as a witness, and detained three days in a crowded court of law.

luscious; painted for R. Vernon. 210, A repetition of Mr. Broderip's delicious "Red Cap," and hardly, if at all, inferior to the original. 224, "Industrious Amusements Sixty Years Ago." A sweetly painted lace-maker, and one of the productions, in this exhibition, which shews a desire in the artists to prove their talent in manners which differ from their usual and recognised styles.

No. 43, "Lorenzo and Jessica," J. E. Lauder, is one of the few poetical subjects, and charmingly treated. The expression of both countenances is exceedingly fine, and the tone of colour truly Italian. 56, "Girl at a Fountain," also does credit to Mr. Lauder's taste; but the "Jessica" is of a lovely and superior order.

No. 49, "The last gleam before the Storm," J. Linnell. There are parts of this picture which could hardly be surpassed; but it is not all of a harmonious piece. The dark cloud descending upon the fleecy and blue sky is almost sublime, and the latter delightfully handled. But we cannot extend our admiration to the woody and copsy scene on the right. It is basking in an entire sunshine, and not a sinking gleam, and is, indeed, all too carpety to meet our approbation, especially when we consider the contrast.

No. 69, "A Highland Lake," F. R. Lee, R.A., is a solemn scene, made more interesting by ruins. It is very picturesque, rather same in colour. 313, "A Shady River," and 435, "Falls in Wells," are the artist's own.

No. 102, "Post Haste," C. Branwhite. A glorious white pony and a perfect impersonation (or inhorsmation) of the speed indicated by the title. 258, "A Bird-trap," a frost scene by the same, displays great talent in this line.

No. 114, "A Mile from Home," E. Hildebrandt, is another frost scene of considerable merit. The red is, perhaps, too prevalent in the heads of the children, their caps, and generally throughout.

No. 120, "A River Scene; Evening," T. Sidney Cooper. A perfect gem. We need never boast of Paul Potter, whilst we have got such of our own, with a touch of Cuyt to boot. The evening glow, and the three cows are perfection in art. 96, is another of Mr. Cooper's work, and exceedingly fine, though not quite up to the preceding.

No. 129, "A Saw Mill at Sardam," C. Stanfield, who can "ride the whirlwind and direct the storm," or present us with a whole panorama of country stirring with life, has here chosen to give us a scene of utter quietude and simplicity, and in sober tints congenial to the stillness. It proves that he can master whatever he chooses to undertake.

No. 124, "Knitting," J. Inskip. One of four of this artist's beautiful brunette characters, and excellent examples of his skill. "Trying on the Ring" is another, and no less pleasing, where all are pleasant.

No. 141, "Othello," J. Gilbert. The Senate scene very cleverly represented. *Desdemona* charming, and the *Othello* well conceived, although the head does not strike us as being nationally Moorish.

No. 183, "Snow," T. Danby. A son of F. Danby, who has here painted a fine landscape, in glowing light and gentle colours. It is of such promise, that we may rightly esteem him a successor to the name he inherits.

No. 206, "The Village Forge," R. Brandard. A Teniers'-like performance, quite enough to make the artist a fame. The various lights from fires and the heavens are admirably managed, and the picture altogether worthy of high praise.

No. 242, "Joseph interpreting the dreams of Pharaoh's Chief Butler and Baker," Sir G. Hayter. Even with his great "House of Commons" picture in the Exhibition, this work will raise the reputation of Sir G. Hayter. It is a standard performance. The three figures

are grouped with perfect nature. The attitudes admirable, and the looks not less suited to the varied human subject.

Art Unions.—The Art Union and the Board of Trade are in communication upon the proposal for certain alterations in the plan pursued by that body.

The system of selection proposed by the Board is, that the council, or a committee, should in the first instance select the works of art to be distributed, and that the prizeholders should select from this collection according to the order of their prizes.

From this it is argued the following improvements would flow:

1. It would confide the task of making the preliminary selection to persons who may be presumed to be chosen for the office on account of their fitness for it.

2. It would enable those persons to purchase the best pictures of the year, and to give the prizeholders a chance of obtaining them, whereas at present they can only choose from among those which remain unsold at the opening of the exhibitions, which are comparatively few.

3. It would divert the attention of the prizeholder from the "money value" of his prize, and thus tend to repress the gambling spirit.

4. It would call on the prizeholder to exercise his own taste, restricting him from making a very bad choice, and preserving him from the interested counsels of persons anxious to procure the sale of particular works of art. In this respect it would have the advantage over the present London system.

5. It would enable him to choose a work suited to his taste and circumstances, and in this respect have the advantage over the Scotch, Irish, and German systems.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

FRANCE.

Paris, Feb. 8.

You have often reproached us, if I remember rightly, with our want of dramatic boldness, our inveterate veneration for antiquated rules, and our silly predilection for the three unities of action, time, and place. But now we cease to merit these reproaches: from violation to violation we are now led to question even the validity of the literary code, and full scope is given to the caprices of the imagination; and when she has not full range for her peaces, in one of those "evenings" which begin at six, and conclude at half-past-two in the morning—as in the case of the first representation of the *Reine Margot*—she is now allowed the resource of recalling her auditory to a second sitting. Such is the innovation with which we have been regaled by M. Alex. Dumas.

"Aimez vous la muscade?"—on en a mis partout," said the host to Boileau. "Are you fond of millions?"... asks M. Dumas, and, as there are few people inclined to answer in the negative,—as the *Contempt of Riches*, in spite of the fine Treatise of Seneca, has not as yet made many proselytes—accordingly gold flows in abundance in this monster drama, called *Le Comte de Montchristo*. I know not whether you have a translation of the novel, and whether you are familiar with the leading facts of this lengthy chronicle of the Restoration. At all events, I may tell you that a certain Dantes is in question, an officer of the mercantile navy, whom his enemies have contrived to incarcerate, as a conspirator, in the dungeons of the Chateau d'If, in the worst days of 1815. He therein finds a certain Abbé Fazio, a man of surpassing genius, who, amongst other valuable information, is in possession of the secret of an immense treasure, buried in the small island of Montchristo. On the eve of dying, he reveals this secret, which is no longer avail-

able for him, to Dantès, who stands a pretty good chance of being unable to make a better use of it. The latter, however, makes his escape by enclosing himself in a sack in which the corpse of the Abbé had been sewn up previous to being committed to the waves. Provided with a sharp poignard, Dantès, once in the sea, cuts open his prison drapery, and swims his best towards the nearest shore. Once landed, he goes in quest of the mentioned treasure, and the first use he makes of it is to save from imminent bankruptcy the shipowner Morel, who formerly had taken him under his protection.

All this, mind you, forms but one third of the novel, and yet is the staple of two evenings. When the work shall have been completed; when M. Dumas shall have shown us the *Comte de Montchristo* (Dantès), prosecuting with the aid of Providence and his millions, the vengeance to which he is rightfully entitled, we may reckon upon at least six consecutive evenings of "brought forward" entertainment. The whole week will be spent at the Théâtre Historique, and those amongst the spectators who have their abode at a distance—at the extremity of the Boulevards, for instance—will have no other alternative, if they dread the bore of these continual voyages, than to take up their residence in some furnished hotel near the Temple.

In the mean time a new locution has emerged from this new situation. This is the term *Montchristo* used as a verb-active:—*Je Montchristo*;—*tu Montchristes*;—&c., and the *Chari-vari* has represented a worthy citizen, anxious to make an early exit from the theatre to which he had been attracted by the reputation of M. Dumas, but forced back therein at the bayonet's point by a Garde Municipal:—"On ne passe pas, bourgeois; tu n'as pas fini ton temps;—" "your time is not out yet" says the Police Agent, using a locution which is never applied but to convicts and other state prisoners.

When one week has brought to light a two-evening drama, much more cannot be expected of it. Accordingly, I will not trouble the Gymnase for an account of a worthy artizan *Christophe le Cordier*, a play renewed from a mass of vaudevilles, in which some obscure wight is invariably the hero. This particular one has nothing to distinguish him greatly from his predecessors, unless it be his particular calling. He met with a most peaceable reception.

But tragedy is rife at the other extremity of France, in the tribunal before which will be cited Frère Lestade, a priest, charged with having murdered a poor young girl of fourteen, after having subjected her to the most odious outrage. The indictment is this very day published by the judicial journals, and is of unusual length. The details it affords allow full scope for the imagination to re-construct the sinister drama. The heroine was held a pattern for mildness, honesty, and filial piety; not one of her "compagnons" exhibited more zeal for her religious duties or inspired more confidence. She was everywhere quoted as the most dutiful child, and the most industrious workwoman. One day she went with the bookbinder, her employer, she and another workwoman, older and stronger than herself, to carry books to the establishment of the *Frères de la Doctrine Chrétienne*, at Toulon. According to the rules of the house, she was allowed to go no further inside than the outer cloisters. She, therefore, remained there while the bookbinder conferred with the chief of the establishment. From thence she suddenly disappeared without having been seen by anybody either going out of the house or penetrating further within the walls....and the next day her corpse was found in a cemetery, annexed to the garden of the *Frères*, in a reclining position, at the foot of a wall. She had perished under fearful blows after having fallen a victim to brutal passions.]

The most striking part of the horrible narrative is that, by the indictment, after the diligent search which was instituted—and this search continued for six months, the police were unable to establish against the principal accused any charge of premeditation. We must therefore come to the conclusion, if the facts charged against him are proved in the impending debates, we must, I say, come to the conclusion that he both conceived and committed this double crime within the same quarter of an hour. We must suppose that this man, hitherto irreproachable, became, in the course of a few minutes, one of the most hideous criminals against whom Justice has had to raise her arm for many years. Is this not a terrible revelation, and, as it were, a ghastly light thrown upon that unclean abyss called the human heart? A remarkable anecdote is mixed up with the details given as to the previous life of the young victim. A fortnight before the 16th June—the period when the crime was committed—she was talking to some friends, and the conversation, by a singular chance amongst young girls, turned upon death. Each pronounced for the particular mode of death she would adopt by choice. "As for myself," said Cecile Combottes, "I would die a martyr." Has not the pious child had her wish fulfilled?

NOTES FROM ABROAD.

Royal Academy of Science, Berlin.—The King of Prussia honoured the Academy with his presence at the anniversary meeting in commemoration of the birth-day of Frederick II. January 27. Professor Ehrenberg, after an appropriate address, in which he congratulated the society on the presence of the Sovereign, delivered an interesting lecture on the results of microscopic investigations. They chiefly regarded the relations of the Monsoon-dust, with especial reference to the *mare tenebrosus* of the Arabians upon the African coast, commencing *edrisi* (1160), according to which this "sea of darkness" (*bahr mudamil, mare tenebrosus*), which needed a Columbus to penetrate it, is in close affinity with the organic Monsoon-dust. Thus the existence of the phenomenon of the red-dust-fog which prevails there, is historically prolonged for 500 years. By an historical review of the 264 showers of blood and red dust, which occur almost exclusively in the northern hemisphere, they were referred to this head, as probably containing similar component parts. The entire independence of this phenomenon of the season, its frequent occurrence with a serene sky, and its manifold combination with fiery meteors and meteoric stones, indicate that the latter are not an accidental circumstance. The red polar and glacial snow have a distinct organic character, and are less interesting. Special reference was then made to the red-dust clouds of Kashgar, and the fog-mountains of Bolor Takh, in Central Asia, which appear to be a continual reproduction of the phenomenon of the *Mare tenebrosus* in West Africa. Professor Ehrenberg, in his travels with Baron Von Humboldt, in 1829, determined, after minute personal investigation of six years, that the steppes and deserts of Central Asia are nowhere calculated to form the red meteor-dust, nor are the red earths of Fezzan and the White Nile, in central Africa, referable to the organization of this phenomenon. The only country which is organically constituted to generate the large masses of the far-spreading showers of red meteor-dust, but not of monsoon-dust, is Beloochistan in India. Sir Henry Pottinger gives an account of these enormous waves of fine, tile-coloured sand, which are 20 feet high, and extend to a length of 60 miles. They are, however, perfectly sterile, and the water of the wells had a brackish taste, at the depth of 150 feet. It is impossible that this sand or dust should fertilize Kashgar, or that it is identical with

the rich organic monsoon-dust of the Atlantic, which prevails periodically in the form of red snow, or blood-rain, as far as the Tyrol, Trebbin, Silesia, and East Prussia. It appears from minute investigation that South America alone, with its frequently ochreous soil and similar organisms, together with parts of China, in the neighbourhood of Canton, must be considered as the geographical basis of the monsoon-dust. The Professor recommended that the subject be investigated; it indicates a powerful action of the atmospheric meteors, the origin of which is still unknown.

Jenny Lind.—The performances of Jenny Lind continue to excite the greatest sensation at Stockholm. The Directors of the Opera-House have, however, been obliged to resort to a novel method for obviating the throng and disturbance which used at first to take place for the purchase of tickets: many of the higher class used to send their servants over night, so that they might be able to force their way among the crowd, to the *deposit* of the tickets, as soon as it was open in the morning. The plan now adopted is a regular auction of the tickets, the highest being knocked down to the highest bidder. They fetch from 400 to 800 per cent. above the original price. Mlle Lind still continues to apply the whole of her share of the proceeds—a third part—to the foundation of the Musical and Theatrical Institution for young persons of both sexes, whose means are small.

Reform Dinners in France.—These are now quite the vogue in France, and with Reform dinners, as such, we do not wish to quarrel; but we desire at once to express our decided reprobation of a toast, which, according to the public journals, was given at Limoges. After "The People," "Liberty," &c., had been drunk, the toast was proposed and drunk—"Jesus Christ!" This is worthy of the worst days of the reign of the goddess of Reason; it is a blasphemy which cannot be too severely deprecated.

ORIGINAL.

AND CURIOSITIES OF LITERATURE.

CHURCH-STEEPLES.—BELLS.—SAFFRON WALDEN.

[It was a favourite observation of Sir Walter Scott, that no man lived who could not furnish information almost peculiar to himself, and that few books had been written so perfectly useless as not to contain something or other worth preservation. If the great novelist had had as much experience in the tempestuous productions of the modern press, he might perchance have been of a different opinion; but we were reminded the other day of his maxim by picking up on a stall a small volume printed on London Bridge in 1720, entitled *The New Help to Discourse*, which contained a great deal of old school information, and may be worth the following extracts.—Ed. L.G.]

"Q. Wherefore on the top of Church-Steeple is the Cock set upon the Cross?"

"A. The Papists tell us, it is for our Instruction, that whilst aloft we behold the Cross, and the Cock standing thereon, we may remember our sins, and with Peter seek to obtain mercy.

"Q. What is the Cause, why the Pope Christens his Bells?"

"A. That being by him thus Sanctified, the Sound of them might drive Devils out of the Air, clear the Skies, chase away Storms and Tempests, quench Fires, and give Comfort to all the Dead that hear them, as the very Bells themselves will merrily tell you, being rung to this Tune:

"Behold our Uses are not small,
That God to praise *Anthem* call;
That break the Thunder 'gainst the Dead,
And cleanse the Air of Tempests bred;
With Fear keep off the Fiends of Hell,
And all by virtue of my Knell.

"Q. What three things is it, wherein the Town of Saffron-walden in Essex doth excel?"

"A. In a magnificent House; a sumptuous Church, and a large pair of Stocks. The House called *Audley-End-House*, built by *Thos. Howard*, Earl of *Suffolk*, a most gallant, uniform Building, little inferior to any in Europe. The Church

stands in the Middle of the Town on a Hill, having an Ascent each way unto it, which makes it appear more graceful. It is very large, and adorn'd with curious Workmanship, hath an excellent Ring of Bells. The Stocks are made of one entire Tree, and will, by the Legs, Wrists, and Thumbs, hold above forty several Persons, and are, by the Inhabitants of that Town, shown to Strangers as a great Rarity."

BIOGRAPHY.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has died, a few hours within the opening of his 83rd birth-day, yesterday morning at half-past 3. Few men of his eminence in the Church have ever been more esteemed and respected. He was mild, tolerant, consistent, and a friend to general literature, though we are not aware that he ever published anything himself beyond a religious Tract or a Charge. Report seems to point at the Bishop of Lichfield, Lonsdale, as his probable successor; though the Bishop of Chester, J. Bird Sumner, is also mentioned, as well as Kaye, Bishop of Lincoln, and Thirlwall, Bishop of Saint Davids.

Mrs. Blood, known to the Stage some years ago as Miss Dance, under which, her maiden name, she took the higher walks of the drama, with grace, dignity, and distinction, died a week ago, and was yesterday buried in Kensal Green. She was the daughter of Mr. Dance, so long celebrated in the musical world; the niece, or near relative, of the famous Commodore Dance, whose naval exploit with a fleet of Indians made so much noise in the war-time; and also nearly related to the late Mr. Dance of architectural celebrity; and the sister of Mr. Charles Dance the popular dramatic writer. Her premature and lamented death will deeply affect a large circle of those who admired her talents and esteemed herself.

THE DRAMA.

Drury Lane.—The grand concert of M. Hector Berlioz, so long announced, came off on Monday evening last, and we have seldom, if ever, had the pleasure of attending so excellent and interesting a performance. M. Berlioz, has long been known to us by reputation, but this concert, at which none but his own music was given, will add immensely to his reputation amongst us. The French school is celebrated for the excellence of its executants rather than the talents and genius of its composers, but certainly Berlioz gives evidence of an originality and power of composing, together with a skill in orchestral effect, such as is rarely met with; it is true we heard his music on this occasion under the very greatest advantages; with a splendid orchestra, well arranged, consisting of all the best players in London, and a full chorus.

The overture was one called the *Carnival of Rome*, a very characteristic piece, full of the most wild and boisterous strains of fun and fancy; it was admirably played, and very much applauded. A romance, *The Young Shepherd*, by Miss Miran, followed, not remarkable as a composition, and not calculated to show the singer's powers to advantage; then we had a grand symphony in four parts, called *Harold in Italy*, a solo on the tenor, by Hill, being kept up throughout with the idea of keeping the picture complete in the imagination. 1.—*Harold* in the mountains,—melancholy, happiness, and joy. 2.—A march of Pilgrims, singing; this gave great scope for the peculiar talent of M. Berlioz in descriptive music; the song was beautifully kept up by the whole of the wind-instruments and violins, while the march and tread of the pilgrims was described by all the basses playing *pizzicato*; the whole was swelled *crescendo*, and then gradually made to die away until the fancy

gave the last sound of the song and the tread of the pilgrims. 3.—Was the song of the *Abruzzi mountaineer* to his *Mistress*, taken on the corno Inglese, by Barret, a very charming and characteristic piece of music. 4.—Ran through the previous subjects, and wound up with an exceedingly clever *ensemble*, descriptive of the revels of Brigands.

This symphony abounds in subjects of an original and striking kind, and a beautiful orchestral colouring pervades the whole, especially in the march and the *finale*.

Selections from an opera on *Faust*, formed the second part of the concert, in which Reeves took the music of *Faust*, and Weiss that of *Mephistopheles*, with a student's song by Mr. Gregg, and choruses of sylphs, students, and soldiers. We were not much pleased with the voice-parts in this, except the choruses, which, though but indifferently done, gave evidence of their merit. The march is very fine, but the music describing the flight of *Faust* and *Mephistopheles*, through the air, is the most remarkable for orchestral effect. After a series of dramatic passages sweeping through the whole orchestra, the sounds gradually fade away to passages taken by the violins united, and at last all ceases but the stillest harmonies on the harps, and a tremor from the drum. This sort of thing may be open to the criticism of being tricky, but it has a fine effect, and is, we think, not out of place in such an opera as *Faust*; it was much applauded and encored. The *Finale*, a drinking chorus of soldiers and students, is also very effective.

The third part of the concert opened with a very charming song, by Dorus; a cavatina from an opera called *Benvenuto Cellini*. We were more impressed with exquisite taste displayed by the singer, than by the composition.

"A chorus of souls in purgatory," part of a requiem, was excellently performed, and displays a fine conception for this kind of music, though it does not exhibit the same originality as the other compositions; it reminded us of Mozart rather too forcibly. The grand triumphal symphony, "Composed by order of the French Government, on the removal of the remains of the victims of July, and the inauguration of the Column of the Bastille," is very noisy and very brassy, not so pleasing as the other music of the concert. The great features in the music given on this occasion are a variety of subject and great orchestral effect or treatment. One hearing is not enough to enable us to go into the detailed merits of M. Berlioz's music; we shall look with pleasure to hearing it again, for he may rely that such concerts will not pass without the fullest patronage of our rich and not insensible metropolis.

On Wednesday Mr. Sims Reeves took his benefit, when *Lucia di Lammermoor* was the opera. Mme. Dorus Gras was to have been the *Lucia*, but was indisposed, so Miss Miran kindly read the first act, but being unacquainted with the part, it was almost fatal to the action of the drama, and a second apology became necessary. The last two acts were very well sung and acted by Miss Messent, who reaped a harvest of wreaths, probably never intended to grace her brows, but she deserved them, and we were glad to see this lady distinguish herself so much at so short a notice. The house was well filled.

The *Marriage of Figaro* actually came off last night, and, in a word, we may say, with considerable success. The cast was, *Susannah*, Miss Birch; the *Countess*, Mrs. Lea; *Almaviva*, Mr. Weiss; *Cherubino*, Miss Miran; *Figaro*, Mr. Whitworth. The overture was magnificently played, and, as it well deserved, encored. *Figaro* was performed with great spirit by Mr. Whitworth; and, in his great song, the well-known "Non piu andrai," quite came out, and gained an encore. Miss Miran also has created

a sensation in the part of *Cherubino*, acting with great *naïveté*, and singing the beautiful "Voi che sapete" with great effect; she was much applauded and loudly encored in this. The "Sull' aria" was another very excellent performance by Mrs. Lea and Miss Birch, who also gained an *encore*; the old favourite, *Cruel perche*, though encored, did not come off quite so well as we expected; but Mr. Weiss' singing deserves great praise. Miss Birch sang the song in the assignation scene, which is generally left out by Grisi, in which too, it will be remembered, Jenny Lind made a great sensation last season; this she sang with great care, and received the most hearty applause for her arduous undertaking.

The Opera is well mounted, but would have been better if a few more rehearsals could have been expended upon it. The scenery is good, and the dresses perfect, and altogether, considering the great difficulty of the music and that the performers are not veterans, we think the production of this opera is another credit to our opera-stage. The band was admirable throughout, and contributed not a little to the success of the opera.

French Plays.—On Wednesday evening Mlle. Nathalie delighted a numerous and fashionable audience by her second performance of *La Vicomtesse Lolotte*. The variety and spirit of her acting are of a very high histrionic merit. The other parts are also well sustained, so that the principal character is ably played up to throughout, and the effect of the whole piece is of a most pleasurable description. M. Montalind had also a very amusing part, which he filled with infinite ease and humour.

Haymarket.—The pretty comedieta, the *Soldier's Daughter*, and Webster's last translation, the *Roused Lion*, have resumed their places on these boards; but the great event of the week has been the visit of the Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by a large and distinguished party, to witness Mr. Lovell's fine play of *The Wife's Secret*, which seemed to afford the Royal party infinite gratification.

Princess s.—Wednesday evening was devoted to the benefit of Mrs. Mowatt, the American authoress and actress, when the play of the *Stranger* was performed. After which the interlude of *Faint Heart never won Fair Lady*, afforded the *bénéficiaire* an opportunity of displaying her talents in comedy; in which, in our opinion, she shows off to greater advantage than in tragedy. We were pleased to see the house so well filled.

On Thursday an adaptation from the French, called *Naida*, with some pretty music by Loder, brought Mme. Thillon forward in a new and attractive part. The piece is very French in its morality, and the *doubles entendres* do not bear translation, but it was so cleverly supported by this accomplished actress that its faults were forgotten in her merits.

Lyceum.—A phreno-mesmeric sketch called *Astounding Phenomena*, was brought out here on Monday. Its absurdities would make even Spencer Hall smile, and as these were capably demonstrated by Charles Mathews as a voluble quack, and Frank Mathews as a prosy gull, and as the railway-station where the astounding phenomena develop themselves is admirably managed on the stage, the audience were much amused, and the little piece was perfectly successful, and will form a pleasant half-hour's variation in the very pleasant entertainments at the Lyceum.

Marylebone.—Sheridan Knowles's play of the *Wrecker's Daughter* is perhaps the least effective of this gentleman's dramas, either for acting or reading, and we remember that on its first production at Drury Lane its success was by no means remarkable; nor did it keep possession of the stage for any length of time. Its revival at the Marylebone on Monday last, was there-

fore, we think, a bold step on the part of the management, but we fear will not prove a profitable one. The piece has, however, been most carefully got up, and some of the scenery is remarkably beautiful and effective; we may instance the storm-scene on the Coast of Cornwall, with the rolling and foaming waves, and the bright and vivid flashes of lightning, which was as well and naturally managed as anything of the kind could be; and then the rustic porch to the village church in the last scene was capitally "set" and very pretty. Mrs. Warner played her original part of *Marian, the Wrecker's Daughter*, (she was Miss Huddart when it was produced at Drury Lane, and the first Original part she had in London), with the same pathos and sweetness which distinguished it of old, and which did so much to establish her reputation as an actress. She was fairly supported by Mr. Graham as *Robert*, Mr. Johnstone as *Black Norris*, and Mr. G. J. Vining as *Wolf*; and although we cannot conscientiously speak much of the success of the revival, the "Gods" seemed to be of a different opinion, and were very enthusiastic.

Mr. Henry Russell.—This gentleman gave one of his clever entertainments at the Western Literary and Scientific Institution on Thursday evening, when he introduced several new compositions, in which he was much and deservedly applauded, as he was in many old favourites. The theatre of the Institution was completely filled, and the audience seemed to be much delighted throughout the evening.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

COMPARISONS OF CONSTANCY.

Long as old Ocean—hushed his foamy wrath,
By night on the forsaken beach shall sob:
Long as men like and like not, or the mob
With shouts pursue the conqueror's homeward path—
While Summer flowers, and harvest Autumn hath;
While blackbirds pipe their song at noon, or rob
Our fruit-trees—chiefly while this heart shall throb,
(Albeit its joys are as a lattermath):
So to the sea of my desires the shore
Thy love shall be; thy praise my best reward;
Thy smile my summer, and thy lips my store:
Thy gentle voice shall bring to disregard
All that I've suffered for thy sake before,
Sweeter to me than ever bird's to bard!

Q.

ON SEEING A BUTTERFLY IN MARKET-STREET,
MANCHESTER.

What brings thee here,
Thou little flutterer, 'mid this busy scene?
Hast thou no fear
Of urchin captor? or that rash hath been
Thy venture hither from the meadows green?

Ah! some there be,
Amidst this hurley-burley, worn in heart,
Who gaze on thee,
To whom wilt thou a deeper gloom impart,
As thou recallest life's most sunny part.

Here on the wing,
Where day to toil surrenders all her hours,
Methinks thou'lt bring
Visions to many of green fields and flowers,
And grassy dells and wild woods' leafy bowers.

Bold rover thou,
If, revelling where rose-nectar quaffing down,
Hast made a vow
Unto thy fellows, all their deeds to crown,
By daring thus the passage of the town.

Or it may be,
A captive thou of urchin's country roam,
And here set free
'Midst smoke and din beneath a murky dome,
To seek, alas! thy far-off flowery home.

Alas, for thee!
Thy flight is feeble, wing is thy wing,
And thou wilt be
Bewildered, lost, thou little fluttering thing,
Amid the myriad spires that round thee spring.

It must be so,
And Fate to thee by this huge lab'rinth saith,
"Thou ne'er shalt know
Again the rose and honeysuckle's breath;
These streets to thee shall be the ribs of death."

Manchester. JOSEPH ANTHONY.

VARIETIES.

The President of the Royal Society has issued cards for his usual soirées, on the 4th and 18th of March, and the 1st and 15th of April. Those most agreeable evenings, so serviceable to the cause of literature and science, leading to friendly intercourse and valuable communications, not to mention the softening of asperities and differences, which ever and anon start up, even among philosophers (not to mention the genus of folks proverbially irritable), are ever welcome, and throw a pleasant light over the labours of the studious and ardent in intellectual pursuits.

Holman the Blind Traveller is now in Paris, having returned from a tour in Portugal and Spain! We are sorry to hear that he is looking ill from the fatigues of his long journey.

Sanitary Movement.—On Thursday Lord Morpeth obtained leave to bring in a Bill for Promoting the Public Health in Cities and Towns.

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

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1848	h. m. s.	1849.	h. m. s.
Feb. 12 . . .	12 14 33.1	Feb. 16 . . .	12 14 34.9
13 . . .	— 14 32.2	17 . . .	— 14 21.0
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MADLE ROSATI and M. DOR.

4. TABLEAU.

LA REINE DES ELFRIDES.

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5. TABLEAU.

LA REINE DES ELFRIDES.

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6. TABLEAU.

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Last Night but one of the *Hilde of Lammermoor*.
Last appearance but two of Mr. RAYNA.
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It being his last appearance but two; after which, the
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sixth appearance.

MISS MIRA'S BENEFIT
On Wednesday the performance will be for the benefit of Miss
MIRA, on which occasion Balfe's New Opera, "The Maid of
Honor," will be played for the last time (for particulars see
advertisements). The last night of the Opera will be Friday, Feb.
25th, and the Season terminates on Monday, Feb. 25th, with a
Grand Bal Masque.

Miss MIRA begs leave most respectfully to announce that her
Benefit will take place at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, on
Wednesday next, Feb. 16th, it being the last night but four.
The Entertainments will consist of Balfe's Opera, "The Maid of
Honor," which will be performed for the last time this season,
and in which Mr. RAYNA will make his last appearance but one.
After the Opera, a Miscellaneous Concert will be given, and the
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The subscriptions for the current year being now due in advance,
and the Council having experienced great inconvenience in pre-
vious years, from members deferring the payment of their
subscriptions till the end of the year, they would feel obliged by all
members transmitting their subscriptions to the London Secretary,
or to the Local Secretaries, as early as possible. The remaining
work for 1847, Prof. Forbes' monograph of the British naked-
eyed Fulmar, and Medusa, is in a state of great forwardness, and
will be speedily issued.

The following works for 1848 are in the press, and will be ready
for distribution early in the year.

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BIBLIOGRAPHIA ZOOLOGIE et GEO-

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but what a pity it is that the deception used by others, should be
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To Professor Holloway. (Signed) CHARLES WILSON.

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Since the Meeting held on the 5th of January, THREE DEBTORS of whom 3 had wives and 11 children, have been discharged from the prisons of England and Wales, the expense of whose liberation, including every charge connected with the Society, was £132 12s. 3d., and the following Benefactions received since the last Report:

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JOSEPH LUNN, Secretary.

R.D. J. DENT, by distinct appointments, watch and clock maker to the Queen, H.R.H. Prince Albert and H.M. the Emperor of Russia, having greatly increased his stock of WATCHES and CLOCKS to meet the purchases made at this season of the year, most respectfully requests from the public an inspection of his various assortments. Ladies' gold watches, with gold dials, and jewelled in four holes, 8s. each; gentlemen's ditto, camel dials, 10s.; youth's silver watches, 4s.; substantial and accurately-going silver levered watches, jewelled in four holes, 4s. 6d. E. J. DENT, 82, Strand; 33, Cockspur Street; and 24, Royal-Exchange (Clock-Tower Arch).

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